

## Table of English Tenses

tense	Affirmative/Negative/Question	Use	Signal Words
<u>Simple Present</u>	<b>A:</b> He speaks. <b>N:</b> He does not speak. <b>Q:</b> Does he speak?	action in the present taking place <b>once, never or several times</b> facts actions taking place one after another action set by a timetable or schedule	always, every ..., never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually if sentences type I ( <i>If I talk, ...</i> )
<u>Present Progressive</u>	<b>A:</b> He is speaking. <b>N:</b> He is not speaking. <b>Q:</b> Is he speaking?	<b>action taking place in the moment of speaking</b> action taking place only for a limited period of time action arranged for the future	at the moment, just, just now, Listen!, Look!, now, right now
<u>Simple Past</u>	<b>A:</b> He spoke. <b>N:</b> He did not speak. <b>Q:</b> Did he speak?	action in the past taking place <b>once, never or several times</b> actions taking place one after another action taking place in the middle of another action	yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday if sentence type II ( <i>If I talked, ...</i> )
<u>Past Progressive</u>	<b>A:</b> He was speaking. <b>N:</b> He was not speaking. <b>Q:</b> Was he speaking?	action <b>going on</b> at a certain time in the past actions taking place at the same time action in the past that is interrupted by another action	when, while, as long as
<u>Present Perfect Simple</u>	<b>A:</b> He has spoken. <b>N:</b> He has not spoken. <b>Q:</b> Has he spoken?	putting emphasis on the <b>result</b> action that is still going on action that stopped recently	already, ever, just, never, not yet, so far, till now, up to now

		<p>finished action that has an influence on the present</p> <p>action that has taken place once, never or several times before the moment of speaking</p>	
<u>Present Perfect Progressive</u>	<p><b>A:</b> He has been speaking.  <b>N:</b> He has not been speaking.  <b>Q:</b> Has he been speaking?</p>	<p>putting emphasis on the <b>course or duration</b> (not the result)</p> <p>action that recently stopped or is still going on</p> <p>finished action that influenced the present</p>	<p>all day, for 4 years, since 1993, how long?, the whole week</p>
<u>Past Perfect Simple</u>	<p><b>A:</b> He had spoken.  <b>N:</b> He had not spoken.  <b>Q:</b> Had he spoken?</p>	<p>action taking place before a certain time in the past</p> <p>sometimes interchangeable with past perfect progressive</p> <p>putting emphasis only on the <b>fact</b> (not the duration)</p>	<p>already, just, never, not yet, once, until that day  if sentence type III (<i>If I had talked, ...</i>)</p>
<u>Past Perfect Progressive</u>	<p><b>A:</b> He had been speaking.  <b>N:</b> He had not been speaking.  <b>Q:</b> Had he been speaking?</p>	<p>action taking place before a certain time in the past</p> <p>sometimes interchangeable with past perfect simple</p> <p>putting emphasis on the <b>duration or course</b> of an action</p>	<p>for, since, the whole day, all day</p>
<u>Future I Simple</u>	<p><b>A:</b> He will speak.  <b>N:</b> He will not speak.  <b>Q:</b> Will he speak?</p>	<p>action in the future that cannot be influenced</p> <p><b>spontaneous</b> decision</p> <p>assumption with regard to the future</p>	<p>in a year, next ..., tomorrow  If-Satz Typ I (<i>If you ask her, she will help you.</i>)  <i>assumption:</i> I think, probably, perhaps</p>
<u>Future I Simple</u> (going to)	<p><b>A:</b> He is going to speak.  <b>N:</b> He is not going to speak.  <b>Q:</b> Is he going to speak?</p>	<p><b>decision</b> made for the future</p> <p>conclusion with regard to the future</p>	<p>in one year, next week, tomorrow</p>

<u><b>Future I Progressive</b></u>	A: He will be speaking. N: He will not be speaking. Q: Will he be speaking?	action that is <b>going on</b> at a certain time in the future  action that is sure to happen in the near future	in one year, next week, tomorrow
<u><b>Future II Simple</b></u>	A: He will have spoken. N: He will not have spoken. Q: Will he have spoken?	action that will be <b>finished</b> at a certain time in the future	by Monday, in a week
<u><b>Future II Progressive</b></u>	A: He will have been speaking. N: He will not have been speaking. Q: Will he have been speaking?	action taking place before a certain time in the future  putting emphasis on the <b>course</b> of an action	for ..., the last couple of hours, all day long
<u><b>Conditional I Simple</b></u>	A: He would speak. N: He would not speak. Q: Would he speak?	action that <b>might</b> take place	if sentences type II ( <i>If I were you, I <b>would go</b> home.</i> )
<u><b>Conditional I Progressive</b></u>	A: He would be speaking. N: He would not be speaking. Q: Would he be speaking?	action that might take place  putting emphasis on the <b>course</b> / <b>duration</b> of the action	
<u><b>Conditional II Simple</b></u>	A: He would have spoken. N: He would not have spoken. Q: Would he have spoken?	action that <b>might</b> have taken place in the past	if sentences type III ( <i>If I had seen that, I <b>would have helped.</b></i> )
<u><b>Conditional II Progressive</b></u>	A: He would have been speaking. N: He would not have been speaking. Q: Would he have been speaking?	action that might have taken place in the past  puts emphasis on the <b>course</b> / <b>duration</b> of the action	