

Tenses

[The English Tense System](#)

The links below are to lessons for each of the 12 basic tenses. In each lesson we look at two aspects of the tense:

- **Structure:** How do we make the tense?
- **Use:** When and why do we use the tense?

Some lessons look at additional aspects, and most of them finish with a quiz to check your understanding.

Many English learners worry too much about tense. If you stopped 100 native English speakers in the street and asked them about tense, 1 of them might give you an intelligent answer - if you were lucky. The other 99 would know little about terms like "past perfect" or "present continuous". And they would know nothing about aspect, voice or mood. But they can all speak fluent English and communicate effectively. Of course, for ESL it helps to know about tenses, but don't become obsessed with them. Be like those native speakers!

Speak naturally!

[Present Tense](#)

I do do, I do

[Present Continuous Tense](#)

I am doing, I am doing tomorrow

[Present Perfect Tense](#)

I have done

[Present Perfect Continuous Tense](#)

I have been doing

[Past Tense](#)

I did do, I did

[Past Continuous Tense](#)

I was doing

[Past Perfect Tense](#)

I had done

[Past Perfect Continuous Tense](#)

I had been doing

[Future Tense](#)

I will do

[Future Continuous Tense](#)

I will be doing

[Future Perfect Tense](#)

I will have done

[Future Perfect Continuous Tense](#)

I will have been doing