

THE PAST

THE PRESENT

THE FUTURE

PRESENT SIMPLE

I do

Something always true
The earth **turns**.

Something constant in the present
I **study** at Alba English.

Repeated present action
She **goes** to English classes every day.

Future schedules
The planes **leave** at 09:45.

With time words
When I **arrive**, I will call you.

PAST SIMPLE

I did

Happened once in the past
I **went** to Paris two years ago.

Something constant in the past and finished
She **studied** history at university.

Repeated past action
We **visited** my grandmother every summer.

FUTURE SIMPLE

I will

Spontaneous decisions
Em, I think I **will have** the risotto.

To make offers and promises
We **will call** you in a few days.

To make predictions
It **will probably rain** later.

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was doing

Something in progress at a past point in time
I **was watching** TV at 8 last night.

Something in progress at the time of another continuing action
I **was walking** my dog while she was making dinner.

To show change or growth in the past
Her country **was changing** so she left.

Repeated past action, focus on repetition
They **were always complaining**.

Something continued for some time
Everyone **was talking** about the problem.

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am doing

Happening right now
The students **are talking** now.

To show change or growth in the present
My English **is getting** better.

Repeated present action, focus on repetition
She **is always telling** me her problems.

Something temporary
I **am staying** in a hostel.

Future arrangements
I **am meeting** David at 6pm.

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE

I will be doing

Something in progress at a future point in time
This time tomorrow I **will be sitting** on a beach!

Something in progress at the time of another continuing action
I **will be waving** from the shore while you are leaving on the boat.

- Key**
- happening now
 - repetition
 - only once
 - change or growth
 - in progress (at point)
 - in progress (with action)

PAST PERFECT

I had done

Past action, preceding another past event, focus on consequences
They **had bought** a house, so they decided to have children.

Something constant in the past, preceding another past event
They **had worked** together for 20 years when he retired.

PRESENT PERFECT

I have done

Past action, focus on consequences in the present
I **have lost** my keys and now I can't get in.

Past action, continues in the present
She **has lived** in Edinburgh since 2002.

To talk about experience,
I **have been** to Thailand, have you ever been there?

FUTURE PERFECT

I will have done

Action that will be completed before a future time
I **will have finished** by 13:30, so I will call you then.

Action that will continue up to and/or beyond a future time
By the time I graduate, I **will have lived** in the UK, for 4 years.

PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

I had been doing

Past action, continued up to the more recent past, focus on duration
I **had been living** in Berlin for 3 years when I met my wife.

Past repeated action continued up to another past action
He **had been writing** songs for many years when he became famous.

PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

I have been doing

Past action, continues up to the present, for duration
How long **have you been working** at Google?

Past repeated action, continues in the present
I **have been going** to singing lessons for ten years.

FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

I will have been doing

Action continued up to and/or beyond a future time, for duration
I **will have been studying** English for 5 months when I take the test.

Repeated action continued up to a future time
By June, she **will have been coming** to English classes for 5 months.

USED TO

I used to do

Repeated past action, not done now
I **used to listen** to Nirvana every day.

Something constant in the past, not true now
I **used to live** with my parents.

BE GOING TO

I am going to do

Decided plans and intentions
I **am going to do** a Master's degree.

Prediction based on current evidence
Put on a hat! You **are going to get** sunburnt.