

TENSES

PRESENT SIMPLE

CASES & EXAMPLES

permanent states,
repeated actions and
daily routines

He works in a bank.
(permanent state)

He takes the train to work every
morning.
(daily routine/repeated actions)

general truths and
laws of nature

The sun sets in the West.

for timetables (planes,
trains, etc.) and
programmes

The plane from Brussels arrives
at 8:30.

exclamatory sentences
!!!

Here comes the bride!

sports commentaries,
reviews,
narration

Peterson overtakes Williams
and wins the race.
(sports commentary)

Mike Dalton plays the part of
Macbeth.
(review)

Then the prince gets on his
horse and quickly rides
away.
(narration)

to give instructions or
directions
(instead of the imperative)

You sprinkle some cheese on
the pizza and then you bake
it.
(Instead of: Sprinkle some
cheese on the pizza ...)

TIME EXPRESSIONS

PRESENT SIMPLE

usually, often, always, etc., every day / week / month /
year, in the morning / afternoon / evening, at night, at the
weekend, on Mondays, etc.

TENSES

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

CASES & EXAMPLES

actions taking place
now, at the moment of
speaking

He is giving the baby a bath at
the moment.

temporary actions that
are going on around
now, but not at the
actual moment of
speaking

I'm looking for a new job these
days.
(He is not looking for
a job at the moment of
speaking.)

with adverbs such as:
always, continually,
constantly, forever, etc. for
actions which happen very
often, usually to express
annoyance, irritation,
anger

You're constantly
interrupting me when
I'm talking.
(expressing annoyance,
irritation)

I'm always meeting Sarah
when I go shopping
(action which happens
very often)

for temporary situations

They are staying at their
friends' now.

for changing or
developing situations

More and more species are
becoming extinct.

actions that we have
already arranged to do
in the near future,
especially when the
time and place
have been decided

They're moving into their
new house next
week.
(The time has been
decided.)

TIME EXPRESSIONS PRESENT CONTINUOUS

now, at the moment, at present, these
days, still, nowadays, today, tonight, etc.

TENSES

PRESENT PERFECT

CASES & EXAMPLES

an action which happened at an unstated time in the past.

The exact time is not mentioned because it is either unknown or unimportant.

The emphasis is placed on the result (action itself)

The Tayors have bought a sailing boat.

(The exact time is unknown or unimportant. What is important is the fact that they now own a sailing boat.)

an action which has recently finished and whose result is visible in the present

She has just washed her hair.

(She has now wrapped her hair in a towel, so the action has finished)

news, changes, events, personal experience

I have been to Italy.
(Personal experience)

an action which has happened within a specific time period which is not over at the moment of speaking. We often use the expressions such as **today, this morning, week, month, etc.**

She has taken fifteen pictures today.

(The time period - today - is not over, she may take more pictures)

BUT: She took twenty pictures yesterday.

(The time period - yesterday - is over)

with state verbs such as **be, have, like, know**, etc. a state which started in the past and continues up to the present
In this case, we often use **for** and **since**

Rachel has had the dog for three years.

(She got the dog three years ago and she still has it.)

TIME EXPRESSIONS

PRESENT PERFECT

for, since, already, yet, always, just, ever, never, so far, today, this week, month, etc, how long, lately, recently, still (in negations), etc.

TENSES

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

CASES & EXAMPLES

to put emphasis on the duration of an action which started in the past and continues up to the present, especially with time expressions such as **for, since, all morning /day/ year, etc.**

Sam has been talking on the phone for half an hour.
(He began talking on the phone half an hour ago and he is still talking.)

an action which started in the past and lasted for some time. The action may have finished or may still be going on. The result of the action is visible in the present

Her feet hurt. She has been walking all morning.
(The result of the action is visible in the present - her feet hurt.)
His hands are dirty. He has been walking in the garden.

to express anger, irritation, annoyance

Somebody has been giving away our plans.
(The speaker is irritated)
Somebody has been using my computer.

TIME EXPRESSIONS

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

for, since, how long, lately, recently

NOTE:

With the verbs **live, work, teach and feel** (= have a particular emotion) we can use the present perfect or present perfect continuous with no difference in meaning.

We **have lived/ have been living** here for twenty years.

NOTE:

We use **the present perfect** to announce a piece of news, and **the past simple** or **past continuous** to give more details about it.

The police **have finally arrested** Peter Duncan. He **was trying** to leave the country when they **caught** him.

NOTE:

We use **the present perfect** to put emphasis on **number** and **the present perfect continuous** to put emphasis on **duration**.

Compare the examples:

I've **typed four** reports so far.

I've **been typing** reports **all morning**.

PATTERNS:

the first, second, tenth, last, final time

+ PRESENT PERFECT

It is the first time the little boy **has ridden** a bike.

Малыш впервые едет на велосипеде.

It is the third cup of tea I **have had** today.

Я пью уже третью чашку за сегодняшний день.

it is the worst/ best/ the most beautiful

+ PRESENT PERFECT

It is the worst/best film I **have ever seen**.

Many people think Kennedy to be the greatest President the USA **has had**.

Have gone to / Have been to / Have been in

He **has gone to** the Far East.

(He hasn't come back yet. He is still there.)

He **has been to** the Far East.

(He isn't there now. He has come back.)

He **has been in** the Far East.

(He lives in the Far East now.)