

ENGLISH TENSES



TABLE

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	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Perfect Progressive
Past	<p>An action that has ended.</p> <p><i>'I played tennis.'</i></p>	<p>An action that was happening when another action happened.</p> <p><i>'I was playing tennis but it started to rain.'</i></p>	<p>An action that happened before another one.</p> <p><i>'I had played tennis before it rained.'</i></p>	<p>An action that had been happening before another action.</p> <p><i>'I had been playing tennis before it rained.'</i></p>
Present	<p>A repeated action.</p> <p><i>'I play tennis every Monday.'</i></p>	<p>An action that is happening now.</p> <p><i>'I am playing tennis now.'</i></p>	<p>An action that has happened at an unspecified time.</p> <p><i>'I have played tennis.'</i></p>	<p>An action that has started in the past and is continuing.</p> <p><i>'I have been playing tennis for 2 hours.'</i></p>
Future	<p>A plan for a future action.</p> <p><i>'I will play tennis on Monday.'</i></p>	<p>A future action that will happen for a length of time.</p> <p><i>'I will be playing tennis on Monday.'</i></p>	<p>An action that will finish before another future action.</p> <p><i>'I will have played tennis before it rains.'</i></p>	<p>An action that happens over time before another future action.</p> <p><i>'I will have been playing tennis before it rains.'</i></p>