

Present Simple

We use Present simple to talk about what we do regularly, in the past, the present and the future. We use it also to talk about constant situations and facts:

I **eat** sushi every day.
You should **buy** a new car.
My friend and I **like** playing with marbles.
The Harlem Globetrotters **play** basketball well.
It doesn't **rain** very much around here.

Present Progressive

We use Present progressive to talk about unfinished actions or actions that are happening during the time of speaking, or when talking about temporary situations.

I **am playing** football with my friends.
What **are you doing**? I need to see you.
Jun Suzuki is in Scotland. He **is learning** English.
The water **is boiling**. Could you switch off the kettle?
Adam and Tomoko meet every day. They **are falling** in love with each other.

Present Perfect

Perfect forms of the verb, are preceded by have or has. We use the present perfect form to talk about a past action which has a connection with, or a relevance to, the present situation. It is often used when describing the very recent past which affects the present. When we say something *has happened*, we are talking about the past, but also thinking about a present situation.

We could often change a present perfect sentence into a present sentence with the same meaning:

I've broken my toe = My toe is broken now
Have you read the bible? = Do you know the bible?

I **have finished** my dinner.
John **has been** to France.
Have you ever **eaten** nato?
Have you worked abroad?
Mayuko **has not lost** her purse 8 times.
We **have never travelled** to China.

1. Finished Actions: Result Now

We often use present perfect to talk about finished actions, when we are thinking of their present consequences; the results which affect the

actions that are completed and finished. There are two types of verb, regular and irregular. Regular past tense verbs end in 'ed', whereas irregular ones don't.

I worked in a computer company last year.
You ate all the pies, didn't you?
Jun Suzuki was in Scotland. He bought a castle.
The dog walked home alone last night/
Bob Sapp played American Football 10 years ago.
I was a policeman for two years.
You were in France last year weren't you?

In questions and in negative statements we can use did / didn't + infinitive:

I didn't like the movie
Did the earth move for you?
I didn't drink a glass of orange pop, I drank a whole bottle

Past Progressive

We use the past progressive when describing what we was happening at a particular point in past time. The past action we are referring to is not complete.

I **was playing** football with my friends yesterday.
What **were you doing** yesterday at three O'clock? I needed to see you.
Jun Suzuki was in Scotland. He **was learning** English.
The water **was boiling**. Why didn't you switch off the kettle?
Adam and Tomoko met every day. They **were falling** in love with each other, until Adam revealed his secret past.

We often use the past progressive with the simple past tense. The past progressive refers to a past event which was going on for a longer period of time and the simple past refers to an event which happened during the longer event was happening;

*The phone rang while I was having breakfast
While I was watching a movie, Mary finished her homework*

Past Perfect

Past Perfect forms of the verb, are preceded by had. We use the past perfect to talk about an action which happened before another action in the past. We use it to talk about something that already happened before the past event we are talking about.

We could often change a present perfect sentence into a present sentence with the same meaning:

I **had finished** my dinner before she called me.
John **had been** to France already, but he went again with Miho.
Had you ever **eaten** nato before you came to Japan?
I **had** you worked abroad before I came here.
I recognised him immediately. I **had** seen before.
We weren't hungry. We **had** just eaten dinner

Past Perfect Progressive

Past Perfect forms of the verb, are preceded by had. We use the past perfect progressive form to talk about a continuous action that was happening before another action/time in the past

I **had been watching** the movie for 2 hours when someone interrupted me (the person is *still* watching the movie)
I **had been working** hard all day and therefore was pretty surprised when my boss asked me to do more overtime
This morning when I woke up the sun was shining but the ground was wet. **It had been raining.** (It had recently stopped raining)
My knees were dirty because I **had been playing** football.
When I met John he stank of cigarettes. He **had been smoking**
I **had been playing** professional football for 12 years, when I became injured

Future Simple

When talking about the future we can use both going to and will. Generally we can use either for most future situations but there are some slight differences in usage.

'Going to'

We use 'going to' to talk about an action which has been planned for the future, and are already decided now (perhaps they have already started)

She is going to have a baby
We have decided to have a party, we are going to invite a lot of people
What are doing today. I am going to go to the cinema with Jimmy. We are going to watch The Xmen
The sky is black. It is going to rain

'Will'

'Will' is commonly used to describe events that are not already clearly decided, or slightly unplanned:

If she has a baby she will call it Ken.
If we have a party, we will have it in Nobuhiro's house.
Nobody will ever know what happened to him.

We also use shall or will + infinitive to express 'interpersonal' meanings when we are offering, making requests, promising or threatening:

Will you keep the windows open please
If you don't pay me the money I will break your kneecaps
Will you give me hand for a second please?

Future Progressive

We use future progressive to talk about something that will be taking place in a particular point in the future

I will be playing tennis at 3 O'clock tomorrow .

What will you be doing tomorrow? I need to see you then.

Jun Suzuki is going to be in Scotland next month. He will be learning English.

This time tomorrow I'll be sitting on a plane bound for Mexico

Future Perfect

We use the Future Perfect tense when we are referring to an event which has finished in the future:

I will have finished by then.

I will have eaten my dinner in around 20 minutes. Please call me around that time again.

I will have returned from the supermarket when you get back home

Future Perfect Progressive

We use the Future Perfect Progressive tense when we are referring to a instant that will have already begun and will be continuing in the future:

I will have been playing tennis for one hour by the time you call me.

He will already have been driving for 20 minutes if you call him at three O'clock.

You can meet me at 3 O'clock if you want, but I will already have been drinking for 3 hours then, so I will likely be very drunk.