

Past, Present, and the Future walk into a bar. It was tense!

	Simple specific moment/set in time often: such as a hobby or every day	Perfect used for cause and effect	Continuous used for ongoing action and context	Perfect Continuous used for ongoing action and context - usually leading up to an effect or outcome
P A S T Before now!	Simple Past A completed action that happened in the past, at a specific time (even when not mentioned), and it is finished. Verb+ed or Irregular Verb Second Row We walked to school every day. We talked about cars all the time. She mentioned her daughter just yesterday.	Past Perfect Something that had happened in the past, but has an influence on something else in the past had + Verb+ed or Irregular Verb Third Row (past participle) We had eaten our diner, and then we were not hungry anymore.	Past Continuous Something that was happening in the past, whilst something else was going on, or up until a specific event. past form of to be + ING We were walking in the snow for hours, whilst talking about the sunny holidays in Spain. I was drying my clothes in the sun when all of a sudden it started raining.	Past Perfect Continuous Something that had been happening in the past, whilst something else was going on, or till something else happened. Had + Been + ING Last year I discovered I had the wrong book for my test, by then I had been studying for days, and it was too late to read the other book. We had been talking for so long, that by the time we stopped I had missed my last bus.
P R E S E N T Now, and a little while longer.	Simple Present An action that is habitual, happens often, or is a hobby of some sorts. Simple form or Irregular Verb First Row We eat every morning. I drive to work each day. I work hard for school.	Present Perfect Something that has happened in the past, but has an influence on something in the present. has/have + verb+ed or Irregular Verb Third Row (past participle) She has had unsafe sex, and now she is pregnant. We have climbed the mountain, and now we are on top.	Present Continuous Something that is ongoing , and happening right now. is/am/are + ING She is walking to school. They are running home. I am listening to you.	Present Perfect Continuous Something that has been ongoing until something else happens, or whilst something else is going on. has/have + been + ING We have been walking for hours now, where is that pub? She has been talking about her ex-boyfriend for weeks, and it is getting slightly annoying.
F U T U R E In a certain while.	Simple Future Something that will happen in the future, or is going to happen in the future. will + verb am/is/are + going to + verb You will help him later. Will you help him later? You are going to meet my mom. Are you going to meet my mom?	Future Perfect Something that will have happened , or something you are going to have done in the future by the time something else is done. will have + past participle am/is/are + going to have + past participle You will have perfected your English by the time you finish this degree. I am going to have finished this book, by the time you return from work.	Future Continuous A longer action that will be happening/is going to be happening in the future, and shall be interrupted briefly, or permanently by something else. will be + ING am/is/are + going to be + ING You will be waiting for her till she found the right outfit to wear! I am going to be waiting for him when his plane arrives tonight.	Future Perfect Continuous Something that you will have been doing in the future, usually for a certain time, till another action ends it, or whilst something else is happening. will have been + ING am/is/are + going to have been + ING You will have been waiting for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives. You are going to have been waiting for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.

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