

English Tenses

STRUCTURE

USE

	Simple	Continuous	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
Present	I work. I speak.	I am working. I am speaking.	I have worked. I have spoken.	I have been working. I have been speaking.
	subject + base verb	subject + auxiliary verb + present participle	subject + auxiliary verb + past participle	subject + auxiliary verb + been + present participle
	facts / routines / habits	present ongoing actions	past with influence on present (often life experiences)	to say how long something has been happening
Past	I worked. I spoke.	I was working. I was speaking.	I had worked. I had spoken.	I had been working. I had been speaking.
	subject + past simple verb	subject + auxiliary verb past + present participle	subject + auxiliary verb past + past participle	subject + auxiliary verb past + been + present participle
	finished action	past ongoing action	past in the past (an action that occurred before another action in the past)	to say how long something had been happening
Future	I will work. I will speak.	I will be working. I will be speaking.	I will have worked. I will have spoken.	I will have been working. I will have been speaking.
	subject + will + base verb	subject + will + be + present participle	subject + will + auxiliary verb + past participle	subject + will + auxiliary verb + been + present participle
	future facts / promises / predictions (little evidence)	future ongoing actions	past to future	to say how long something will have been happening