

# English Tenses

STRUCTURE

USE

	Simple	Continuous	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
Present	<b>I work.</b> <b>I speak.</b>	<b>I am working.</b> <b>I am speaking.</b>	<b>I have worked.</b> <b>I have spoken.</b>	<b>I have been working.</b> <b>I have been speaking.</b>
	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	<b>I worked.</b> <b>I spoke.</b>	<b>I was working.</b> <b>I was speaking.</b>	<b>I had worked.</b> <b>I had spoken.</b>	<b>I had been working.</b> <b>I had been speaking.</b>
	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	<b>I will work.</b> <b>I will speak.</b>	<b>I will be working.</b> <b>I will be speaking.</b>	<b>I will have worked.</b> <b>I will have spoken.</b>	<b>I will have been working.</b> <b>I will have been speaking.</b>
	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