

Present and Future Time

The Difference between Time and Tense:

Time is a physical reality. It refers to the actual point or period when an event occurs in reality. There are three instances of time: past, present and future.

Tense is a grammatical category. It refers to the grammatical form of a verb that indicates when an action or event occurs.

Point:

English has three primary tenses: past, present, and future. Each of these can be further divided into simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous forms.

Point:

Sometimes, the tense used does not directly correspond to the time. For example, the present tense can be used to talk about the future: "I am meeting him tomorrow".

The Present Tenses

1) The Simple Present Tense:

➤ **Routines = Daily Activities**

Joe **wakes up** at 6 o'clock every morning.
Sally **exercises** twice a week.
She always **checks** her emails after breakfast.

➤ **Habits = What we generally tend to do**

Tom **smokes** like a chimney.
Rachel **bites** her fingernails when she is stressed out.
Richard always **takes** risks if even there is a slight chance to win.

➤ **Facts**

Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
The Earth **revolves** around the Sun.
Ice **melts** at 0 degrees Celsius.
Honey never **spoil**s.

➤ **Telling Stories or Jokes**

The sun **rises** over the small village. Birds **sing**, and people **begin** their day. Maria **waters** her flowers while Tom **rides** his bike to the market. Children **play** in the park, their laughter echoing through the streets. In the bakery, the smell of fresh bread **fills** the air. The village **buzzes** with life as everyone **goes** about their daily routines.

Why **don't** scientists **trust** atoms?
They **make up** everything.

Why **don't** skeletons **fight** each other?
They **don't have** the guts.

➤ **Scheduled Actions in the Future (Specially Used for Means of Transportation)**

The train **leaves** at 6 PM.
The meeting **starts** at 9 AM tomorrow.
The movie **premieres** next Friday.
The concert **begins** at 8 PM sharp.
Her flight **departs** at noon.

2) The Present Progressive Tense:

progressive = continuous

➤ **An Action Happening Right Now**

I **am teaching** grammar at the moment.
You **are learning** English right now.

➤ **An Action Happening These Days**

We **are assembling** a new robot these days.
The Browns **are painting** their house these days.

➤ **A Planned Action in the Future**

We **are going** skiing next weekend.
They **are staying** in Australia this summer.

➤ **To Complain about a Repeated Action**

You **are** always **making** fun of other people.
Robert **is** always **nagging** about unimportant things.

3) The Present Perfect Tense:

Subject + has(n't)/have(n't) + Past Participle +

The present perfect tense is a link between the past and the present. It usually deals with an action which started in the past and has continued until now.

Examples:

Monica **has lived** in New York City since 1998.

Herbert **has worked** in Microsoft Corporation for more than 15 years.

Over the years, the organization **has steadily expanded** its global footprint, reaching new markets.

Despite the challenges, she **has** consistently **maintained** an exemplary performance in all her tasks.

They **have** persistently **sought** innovative solutions to address the company's growing needs.

He **has** masterfully **blended** traditional techniques with modern insights in his artwork.

We **have** thoroughly **investigated** every aspect of the case to ensure a fair outcome.

Point:

With the present perfect tense, we use "since" to specify the starting point, but we use "for" to specify the duration of time. In other words, using "for" highlights how long something has lasted, while "since" pinpoints when it started.

since + the Origin of Time

- *since April / last month / 2018 / yesterday / two days ago*

for + Duration of Time

- *for five months / for one month / two years / one day / two days*

We can also use the present perfect for finished actions in the past. But as our grammar is only limited to the present and the future time, we will talk about it later on (in unit 5).

4) The Present Perfect Progressive:

Subject + has(n't)/have(n't) + been + Verb+ing +

They **have been living** in London for a long time.

John **has been learning** French since 2016.

They **have been implementing** new strategies to enhance productivity since the merger.

He **has been conducting** comprehensive research into quantum computing for years.

Point:

When we use the present perfect simple, the result of the action is more important to us than the process, but when we use the present perfect progressive, the process itself is more important than the result.

Examples:

The prices **have risen** sharply.

- The emphasis is on the **result**: Now the prices are much higher than before.

The prices **have been rising** sharply.

- The emphasis is on the **process**: Inflation

The Future Tenses

1) The Future Simple

Subject + will/won't + Simple Form of the Verb

The future simple tense in English is used in several situations:

1. **Predictions:** When you want to predict something that will happen in the future.
 - Example: *It will rain tomorrow.*
2. **Spontaneous Decisions:** When you decide to do something at the moment of speaking.
 - Example: *I will help you with your homework.*
3. **Promises:** When you make a promise to do something.
 - Example: *I will call you later.*
4. **Offers and Requests:** When you offer to do something or make a request.
 - Example: *Will you pass me the salt? / Won't you open the window?*
5. **Scheduled Events:** When talking about events that are scheduled or planned.
 - Example: *The meeting will start at 10 AM.*

The Difference between Future Simple & Be Going To:

We use “will” for spontaneous decisions, general predictions, and promises, while “be going to” is more suitable for pre-planned actions and predictions based on current evidence.

Functions of “Be Going To”:

1. **Plans and Intentions:** Used for plans or intentions decided before the moment of speaking.
 - Example: *I'm going to visit my grandparents this weekend.*
2. **Predictions Based on Evidence:** Used for predictions based on present evidence.
 - Example: *Look at those dark clouds. It's going to rain.*

Point:

For immediate future, don't use "will". In other words, when you see the signs of a phenomenon happening, you should use "be going to".

Point:

In British English, we can use "shall" after first-person subject ("I" or "we") for future reference. Examples:

I shall repair the bicycle soon.

We shall meet them at the coffee shop.

If you do that one more time, I shall be very angry.

I shan't be able to come to your party. (shan't = shall not)

Point:

In both American and British English, "shall" is also used to make a suggestion:

Examples:

Shall I check anything else?

Shall we go out for dinner tonight?

Shall I call him tomorrow?

2) The Future Progressive Tense

Subject + will/be going to + be + Verb+ing +

The future progressive tense, also known as the future continuous tense, is used to describe actions that will be ongoing at a specific point in the future. Here are some common uses:

1. **Actions in Progress in the Future:** To indicate that an action will be happening at a particular moment in the future.
 - Example: *This time tomorrow, I will be flying to Paris.*
2. **Planned Future Events:** To talk about events that are already planned or decided.
 - Example: *We will be meeting with the new clients next week.*
3. **Simultaneous Future Actions:** To describe two actions happening at the same time in the future.
 - Example: *While you are studying, I will be cooking dinner.*
4. **Polite Inquiries:** To make polite inquiries about someone's plans.
 - Example: *Will you be attending the conference next month?*

The Difference between the Future Simple and the Future Progressive:

The future simple focuses on a single, complete action or event, while the future progressive tense emphasizes the ongoing nature of an action.

The mechanic will repair the car tomorrow.

- The repair will be finished tomorrow.

The mechanic will be repairing the car tomorrow.

- The repair will continue tomorrow and won't necessarily finish tomorrow.

The Softening Effect of the Future Progressive Tense:

Will you type the report this afternoon?

- **A Command or an Order:** A manager is talking to a secretary. (The Future Simple)

Will you be meeting Mr. Jackson tomorrow?

- **A Question for Getting Information:** A secretary is talking to a manager. (The Future Progressive)
- Politer**

Will you stay here tonight?

- **An Invitation:** the host invites a guest to stay there.

Will you be staying here tonight?

- **A Question about your Intention:** a guest asks another guest about his plans for the night:

3) The Future Perfect Tense

Subject + will/be going to + have + Past Participle +

The future perfect tense is used to describe an action that will be completed before a specific point in the future. Here are some common scenarios where you might use it:

1. **To indicate completion of an action before a future event:**
 - Example: *By the time you arrive, I will have finished my homework.*
2. **To show the duration of an action up to a certain point in the future:**
 - Example: *By next year, they will have been married for 10 years.*
3. **To express certainty about the completion of an action in the future:**
 - Example: *She will have left by the time you get there.*

4) The Future Perfect Progressive

Subject + will/won't + have + been + verb+ing +

The future perfect progressive tense, also known as the future perfect continuous, is used to describe actions that will continue up until a specific point in the future. Here are some common scenarios where this tense is used:

1. **To emphasize the duration of an action up to a future point:**
 - Example: *By next month, I will have been working here for five years.*
2. **To describe an action that will be in progress at a specific time in the future:**
 - Example: *At 8 PM, they will have been studying for three hours.*
3. **To express assumptions about what will likely have happened by a certain time:**
 - Example: *She will have been waiting for over an hour by the time we arrive.*

Source:

[High Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://High Intermediate 1 (anglophone.ir))