

@heatopher 2016-23	← PAST ←	↓ PRESENT ↓	→ FUTURE →
SIMPLE	<p><i>Something that happened on one or more occasions in the past, and is no longer connected to the present moment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I visited Russia in 1988. That was a very different time from now. I wouldn't like to visit at the moment.Hilda visited Japan several times in the 1930s, but unfortunately she was too ill to visit again after the War. <i>It doesn't matter if it was for a long period. You can still use the past simple.</i>I lived in Japan for three years in the 1990s.I played football until my mid-twenties, but then I couldn't play any more because of knee problems. <p><i>In the second conditional. Be careful – this is not really the past simple at all! It's also known as the present subjunctive or unreal present.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">If I won a million pounds I would still want to work, because I would be afraid of getting bored.You wouldn't ask me to do that if you really cared about me.	<p><i>To ask/talk about things that are true or not in your life at the moment, but which have also been true for some time in the past and will continue to be true in the future, unless you choose to change or some other event causes the change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">What do you do? (what is your job/profession?)Where do you live?I support Liverpool FC. I've supported them since I was six years old, and I'll only stop if someone like Elon Musk buys the club. <p><i>To describe how often you do something as a habit or routine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I usually go to the gym on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.Quentin normally only goes out on Fridays, but of course he doesn't always feel like it. Sometimes he prefers to put his feet up.I hardly ever take the bus to work. I usually cycle or walk.If I have to listen to heavy metal music, I get annoyed. <i>(zero conditional)</i> <p><i>In future time clauses & the first conditonal. Be careful! This is only ever about the future.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">When I see James, I'll tell him that you asked about him.If you ever find that album in a shop, please buy it for me. Whatever it costs, I'll give you the money!	<p><i>will for predictions based on an opinion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I think that England will win this qualification group quite easily, but Ukraine will be difficult for the others to beat. <p><i>going to (“gonna”???) for predictions based on evidence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Can you see that grey sky in the West, on the other side of Manchester? For sure it's going to rain soon.Stop the car. I'm going to be sick! <p><i>will/shall for a suggestion, an offer, or a promise to do something</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">It's getting hot, isn't it. Shall I open the window?That bag is really heavy. I'll carry it for you.I'll finish the report by the end of the week, and it will be on your desk. <p><i>going to to talk about an intention, or a plan that may or may not be totally fixed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">They're going to get married some time next year.I don't have a big plan for today. I'm just going to clean a bit and watch telly. <p><i>will/shall to talk about a quick decision to do something</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I usually drink latte or cappuccino in the morning, but today I'm really tired, so I think I'll have a double espresso please. <p><i>(There is EVEN more to say about usage of the future, but no more space here!)</i></p>
CONTINUOUS	<p><i>Two things were happening at the same time.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">While I was talking to her, Doloris was looking at Facebook. <p><i>An action was (or was not) in progress when something happened.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The rain started at five o'clock and it was still raining at seven, when I got out of bed.Sorry, what did you say? I'm afraid I wasn't listening. <p><i>Second conditional. Be careful!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">If they were thinking about pedestrians, they would definitely put a proper crossing there. (They only care about motor traffic, so they aren't thinking about such things).	<p><i>A process that is happening at the present moment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">What are you doing?I'm writing a guitar concerto. <p><i>A temporary situation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I'm living in a small flat right now. I can't afford anything bigger. <p><i>Expressing the fact that someone does something a lot, and it's annoying for you.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Boris is always making up stories about the ladies he's kissed on the weekend. It's a bit silly, because everybody knows he's lying. <p><i>IDIOMATIC: A fixed plan for the future</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">We're getting married next spring.I'm seeing the dentist tomorrow.	<p><i>An action that will be in progress at some time in the future</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This time next week we'll be relaxing on a beach in Ibiza.Let's not go out on Saturday. It's going to be raining all day, according to the weather forecast. <p><i>DIFFICULT, SORRY – talking about something that is already scheduled to happen, and in that context another thing can perhaps happen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I'll be seeing Billy Smithers tomorrow, as it happens, so let me know if there's any particular message that you would like me to pass on to him. <p><i>Giving information about a future plan, or changes to a schedule</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The 5:25 train is delayed. It will be arriving at approximately 5:45 instead.We'll be inviting applications for this job early next month.
PERFECT SIMPLE	<p><i>Indicates that something happened, or had been the case, ***before another event*** in the past</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gordon had wanted to be prime minister for many years before he finally got the job.When I was a child I was only allowed to leave the table and play when I had finished eating everything on my plate.George had read a lot of books and articles about Ukraine by the time that he finally visited the country. <p><i>In the third conditional. Be careful – this is not really the past perfect at all! It's also known as the past subjunctive or the unreal past. It looks the same, but isn't the same at all.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">If you had told me you were coming, I would have baked a cake. (You didn't tell me that you were coming, and I wasn't ready)I wouldn't ever have watched that film if I had read the reviews first. (I didn't read the reviews. I now regret watching the film.)	<p><i>Indicates something that happened in the past, on one or more separate occasions, and which can still happen or can still change *N*O*W*.</i></p> <p><i>I can count how many times this has happened.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Yes, I have visited Russia, but only once, and it was a long time ago. I'm not sure whether I'll ever be able to go again.It's rained every single day since I arrived in Manchester. (It has rained.....)I've told you a million times that you would eventually have an accident on that ladder. <p><i>Something recent, immediately relevant *N*O*W*.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ah! Someone's eaten the last cake. I was looking forward to having one, but it's my fault for talking too much. (Someone has eaten.....) <p><i>A state which is still the case *N*O*W*.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I've known Sinbad all my life.I've lived in Crouch End for fifteen years.I've always had blonde hair. It's not fake!!! <p><i>Something which has been true for a long time</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hector has worked at this place since he left school.The castle has stood on the hill for 700 years.	<p><i>A prediction, expectation or even a promise about an action that will be completed at some point in the future.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Priscilla believes that we'll already have made contact with alien civilisations within twenty years. Personally, I hope that she's wrong about that.Hopefully you'll already be on the train by the time I get out of the shower.This time next year I hope that the war will have finished. <p><i>A prediction or expectation about a state that will still be the case at a point in the future..</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">If I stay here for one more year, I'll have lived in London for two decades. It's ironic, because I've been trying to leave the place for many years.Can you believe how time passes? We're soon going to have been married for 30 years, and we still don't hate each other! <p><i>(will have.... is much more likely, but going to have.... is not impossible!)</i></p> <p><i>DIFFICULT IDIOMATIC USAGE: making an assumption about what should have happened by *NOW*.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">You'll have understood by now that things are not as simple as we thought!
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	<p><i>No significant difference with the past perfect simple. The only thing is that we are talking about an action happening continuously/regularly before the event.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cyril had been working at the company for two years when the person on the desk in front finally said hello to him.Most people in the West hadn't been paying much attention to Russia and the former Soviet states until the invasion of Ukraine. <p><i>Again, be careful with the third conditional.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">If you had been listening properly, you would have understood. (You weren't listening, so you didn't understand.)	<p><i>A continuous (or regular) action which is still going on at present. We can say how long this has been going on, but we cannot count how many times.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">It's been raining since five o'clock this morning. I was woken up by the sound of it on the window. In fact, it's been raining a lot this week.Gertrude has been playing the accordion for ten years, but she's still too nervous to perform in public.I've been coughing more or less every day since I had Covid. <p><i>Something that has been happening recently, and is only temporary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hector has been working at McDonalds since he finished university, but he's starting a “real” job soon.How long have we been standing in this queue? My feet are turning to ice!I've been having really bad nightmares for the last few days.	<p><i>Similar to the future perfect simple, but the emphasis is on the fact that an action which has been happening continuously/regularly, for a significant duration of time, will still be happening. OF COURSE THIS TENSE IS VERY RARELY USED!!!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">By the end of the 21st century I imagine that humans will probably have been living and working on the Moon for more than half a century. But will life on Earth will be any better than it was at the start of the century?This is a really interesting topic, but if we keep discussing for even ten more minutes we'll have been talking for more than four hours, and unfortunately I have to get up early tomorrow morning! Let's meet up again at the weekend! <p><i>IDIOMATIC (as above): assumption about what has been happening until *NOW*.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">You'll presumably have been wondering why I've been talking for the last ten minutes about Ireland in a lecture dedicated to the history of Ukraine.