

Verb Tense Review 1 – The Simple Tenses

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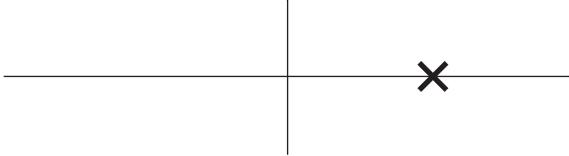
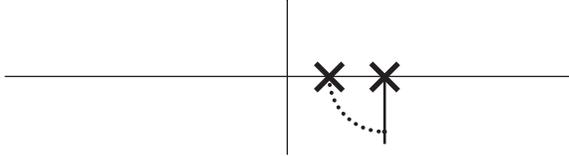
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Grammar Notes

THE 6 SIMPLE TENSES & THEIR TIME MARKERS

Tense	Simple Present	Present Progressive	
Diagram			
Form	Base Verb (+ -s for third person singular)	Be + -ing Verb	
Function	A repeated action	A continuing present action	
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adverbs of frequency (always, usually, sometimes, never, etc.) every once, twice, three times, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> now right now at the moment at this time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nowadays these days currently presently
Example	I always eat breakfast.	I'm doing my homework now.	
Tense	Simple Past	Past Progressive	
Diagram			
Form	REGULAR VERBS: Verb + -ed IRREGULAR VERBS: Various changes	Was / Were + -ing Verb	
Function	A defined past action (we know when the action occurred)	A long past action interrupted by a short past action	Two long past actions occurring at the same time
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> yesterday the day before yesterday last ago when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when while
Example	I went to the gym last week.	I was studying when the phone rang.	I was daydreaming while you were talking.

Grammar Notes cont.

Tense	Simple Future	Future Progressive
Diagram		
Form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will + Base Verb Be Going To + Base Verb Be + -ing Verb 	Will + Be + -ing Verb
Function	A future action	A long future action interrupted by a short future action
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tomorrow the day after tomorrow from now next when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when
Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will call you tomorrow night. I am going to call you tomorrow night. I'm calling you tomorrow night. 	I will be sleeping when the girls get home.

Note #1

INDICATING TIME

There are other ways to indicate time in an English sentence besides using time markers.

Context

One way is to notice the **context**. For example, if someone is talking about last weekend, then all of the verbs will probably be in the simple past tense even though "last weekend" may only be mentioned in one sentence.

- I **went** to a great party last weekend.
We **ate** lots of delicious food and **danced** until dawn.

Other Verbs

Another way is to notice the **other verbs** in the sentence. For example, if a verb is in the simple past tense, then the other verb is almost always in the past as well, even if no time markers are used.

- They **asked** for directions, but they still **got** lost.

Grammar Notes cont.

Note #2

FUTURE VERBS

For the simple future and the future progressive tenses, remember the rule “*No two wills.*” We can never use *will*, *be going to*, *be + -ing verb*, or *will + be + -ing verb* twice in a sentence. The rule is to use the future tense in the independent clause, and the simple present in the dependent clause. Remember that even though the simple present is used, the whole sentence still has a future meaning!

- I **will graduate** when I **finish** my exams.
- When I **finish** my exams, I **will graduate**.

Note #3

NON-ACTION VERBS

Note that the present progressive tense is almost never used with non-action verbs. In English, the simple present is used with non-action verbs even when a present progressive time marker appears in the sentence. Non-action verbs include *be*, *have*, *feelings*, *thinking verbs*, and *the five senses*.

- ✓ She **is** hungry now.
- ✗ She **is being** hungry now.
- ✓ He **likes** horror movies nowadays.
- ✗ He **is liking** horror movies nowadays.

Exercise 1

THE SIMPLE PRESENT, PAST & FUTURE

Choose a word from the box, and use it to form the simple present, simple past, or simple future tense.

1. My dog jumped into the bathtub with me yesterday.
2. The choir _____ at the concert tomorrow night.
3. She always _____ on the track behind the school.
4. They _____ for their honeymoon tomorrow night.
5. He _____ beside me every day in class.
6. Last night I _____ to my boyfriend for hours.

Word List:

- ~~jump~~
- leave
 - sing
 - run
 - talk
 - sit

Exercise 2

THE SIMPLE PRESENT, PAST & FUTURE

Choose a word from the box, and use it to form the simple present, simple past, or simple future tense. Use negative forms.

1. They probably won't go to the meeting tonight.
2. John usually _____ for his math tests.
3. The car swerved and _____ the tree.
4. The restaurant owner gets mad when his employees _____ their hands.
5. We _____ the game, but we had a great time.
6. She _____ her homework tomorrow.

Word List:

- wash
 - hit
 - finish
- ~~go~~
- study
 - win

Exercise 6

THE SIMPLE PRESENT & THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

Complete the story. Use the verbs provided to form sentences with the simple present or the present progressive tense.

Every Sunday my family _____ to the zoo. My little sister _____ the lions.
1. go 2. love

We _____ at the zoo right now, and it _____ a beautiful day.
3. be 4. be

We _____ the big cat show. The zookeeper _____ the lions.
5. watch 6. feed

The lions always _____ excited at mealtime! They usually _____ over the meat,
7. get 8. fight

and my sister _____ scared sometimes. But today she _____ afraid.
9. get 10. feel, not

Today she _____ and _____ her hands.
11. smile 12. clap

I _____ that she _____ to bring a lion home as a pet.
13. think 14. want

Now she _____ out to the lions, "Here, kitty, kitty!"
15. call

Exercise 7

THE SIMPLE PAST & THE PAST PROGRESSIVE

A. Matching

Work with a partner to make complete sentences. Take turns reading the completed sentences out loud. Do they all make sense?

- | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <u> d </u> | 1. when my alarm clock rang | a) I was daydreaming |
| <u> </u> | 2. when my car hit the tree | b) I was waiting for her |
| <u> </u> | 3. when the phone rang | c) I was taking a shower |
| <u> </u> | 4. when the teacher yelled at me | d) I was sleeping |
| <u> </u> | 5. when my grandmother arrived at the airport | e) I was driving |
| <u> </u> | 6. when it was time to leave the office | f) I was still writing the report |

B. Writing

Now write the complete sentences.

Don't forget to add a comma when you begin your sentence with "when."

1. When my alarm clock rang, I was sleeping. / I was sleeping when my alarm clock rang.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Exercise 8

THE SIMPLE FUTURE & THE FUTURE PROGRESSIVE

Work with a small group. Imagine that you are hosting a big party for your friend's birthday. Now imagine what you and your guests will be doing at various times during the party. Share ideas and complete the sentences below together.

Ex. When the food is served, *our guests will be starving.* _____

1. When our friend arrives, _____

2. When it's time for presents, _____

3. When the dancing starts, _____

4. When the music stops, _____

5. When the cake is served, _____

Exercise 9

ALL TENSES

Rewrite the sentences by changing the verb tense.
Change the time marker if necessary.

1. He doesn't feel good right now. (*past*)

2. The cat caught a bird. (*future*)

3. My neighbor was waiting for the package to arrive. (*present progressive*)

4. I watched TV for two hours last night. (*past progressive*)

5. The students are going to take a test next week. (*past*)

6. She is studying French nowadays. (*future*)

7. They went to the park a week ago. (*present progressive*)

8. I went swimming every day when I was a child. (*present*)

9. Mary was playing the guitar when the phone rang. (*future progressive*)

10. Our teacher told us to be quiet. (*present progressive*)
