

Course: Grammar

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The basic forms of the English verb tenses

	Positive	Negative	Question
Present simple	subject + verb (+ s) <i>I eat.</i> <i>She eats toast.</i>	subject + do / does + not + verb <i>I don't eat toast. She doesn't eat fish.</i>	(question word +) do / does + subject + verb? <i>Do you eat breakfast every day?</i> <i>When does she eat lunch?</i>
Present simple with 'be'	subject + am / is / are <i>I am hungry. She is in a cafe.</i>	subject + am / is / are + not <i>I'm not hungry. She isn't happy.</i>	(question word +) am / is / are + subject...? <i>Is he at home?</i> <i>Why are you hungry?</i>
Present continuous	subject + am / is / are + verb-ing <i>She's eating toast. They are eating lunch now.</i>	subject + am / is / are + not + verb-ing <i>He isn't eating. We are not eating at home.</i>	(question word +) am / is / are + subject + verb-ing? <i>When are they eating?</i> <i>Is he eating now?</i>
Present perfect	subject + have / has + past participle <i>I've eaten breakfast. He has eaten lunch.</i>	subject + have / has + not + past participle <i>We haven't eaten yet. She hasn't eaten the chocolate.</i>	(question word +) have / has + subject + past participle? <i>What have you eaten today?</i> <i>Has she eaten lunch?</i>
Present perfect continuous	subject + have / has + been + verb-ing <i>I've been eating. She's been eating biscuits all day.</i>	subject + have / has + not + been + verb-ing <i>They haven't been eating. He has not been eating toast.</i>	(question word +) have / has + subject + been + verb-ing? <i>What has she been eating?</i> <i>Have they been eating breakfast?</i>
Past simple	subject + past simple (verb +ed) <i>I ate an apple. She ate some rice.</i>	subject + did + not + verb <i>She didn't eat anything. They did not eat breakfast.</i>	(question word +) did + subject + verb? <i>Did you eat the chocolate?</i> <i>What did they eat for lunch?</i>
Past simple with 'be'	subject + was / were <i>I was hungry. They were in a restaurant.</i>	subject + was / were + not <i>We weren't hungry. She wasn't at home.</i>	(question word +) was / were + subject...? <i>Why was she hungry?</i> <i>Were you hungry?</i>
Past continuous	subject + was / were + verb-ing <i>I was eating. They were eating lunch.</i>	subject + was / were + not + verb-ing <i>You weren't eating. She wasn't eating a sandwich.</i>	(question word +) was / were + subject + verb-ing? <i>Where were you eating?</i> <i>Was she eating an apple?</i>
Past perfect	subject + had + past participle <i>I had eaten. She'd eaten lunch.</i>	subject + had + not + past participle <i>We hadn't eaten. He had not eaten an apple.</i>	(question word +) had + subject + past participle <i>Why had you eaten?</i> <i>Had they eaten fish before?</i>
Past perfect continuous	subject + had + been + verb-ing <i>I had been eating chocolate all day. She'd been eating breakfast.</i>	subject + had + not + been + verb-ing <i>I hadn't been eating. She hadn't been eating an apple.</i>	(question word +) had + subject + been + verb-ing? <i>Why had he been eating?</i> <i>Had they been eating enough fruit?</i>
Future simple	subject + will + verb <i>I will eat later. She will eat at home.</i>	subject + will + not + verb <i>We won't eat anything tonight. He will not eat fish.</i>	(question word +) will + subject + verb? <i>What will you eat for lunch?</i> <i>Will she eat meat?</i>
Future continuous	subject + will + be + verb-ing <i>I will be eating at 8pm. She will be eating a sandwich.</i>	subject + will + not + be + verb-ing <i>They won't be eating. He will not be eating anything.</i>	(question word +) will + subject + be + verb-ing? <i>What will you be eating?</i> <i>Will they be eating at 6pm?</i>
Future perfect	subject + will + have + past participle <i>I will have eaten lunch by 3 o'clock. She'll have eaten all the chocolate.</i>	subject + will + not + have + past participle <i>He won't have eaten lunch yet. They will not have eaten their sandwiches.</i>	(question word +) will + subject + have + past participle? <i>When will you have eaten?</i> <i>Will she have eaten dinner by nine?</i>
Future perfect continuous	subject + will + have + been + verb-ing <i>They will have been eating fruit. We'll have been eating all day.</i>	subject + will + not + have + been + verb-ing <i>I won't have been eating fish. They will not have been eating lunch.</i>	(question word +) will + subject + have + been + verb-ing? <i>What will she have been eating?</i> <i>Will you have been eating chocolate?</i>