

## VERB TENSES

### SIMPLE PRESENT:

- **Usage:** use simple present for **facts** (always true, never change) and **habits** (everyday life, actions that we usually do or don't do)

**Time words:** simple present is often used words like these:

every day	once a week	always
every week	3 times a day	usually
every night	twice a month	often
every year	on Sundays	sometimes
every winter	weekly	occasionally
every Saturday	every other day	seldom
etc.	etc.	never

- **Statements:** (regular sentences): Use the simple form (dictionary form-no ed, ing, s, etc).

I study English.                      We attend EdCC                      They like parties.

He/She/It: be careful to add "s" (or -es or -ies) to the verb if the subject is he, she or it.

She studies English                      We attend EdCC                      It rains every Day. Cathy likes grammar.      The teacher worries about his students.

- **Y/N Questions and negatives:** when we make questions(?) or negatives (not) we use **do** or **does** as helping verbs with the simple form of the main verb:

?                      **Do** they always do their homework?  
not                      No, they **don't** always do their homework.

?                      **Does** she usually come to school on time?  
not                      No, she doesn't usually come on time. She never comes on time!

### Remember these things about BE in Simple Present

- **BE** as main verb: When BE is the main verb, you don't need a helping verb for questions or negatives. Just use BE.

?                      **Is** he crazy?  
not                      No, he **isn't** crazy.

- **BE with adverbs of frequency:** Remember that the adverb follows, or comes after "be"

I am **never** late                      vs. I **never** come late.

## PRESENT PROGRESSIVE:

Usage: Use present progressive to talk about now, the time around now, and things that will change in the future (things that are not forever):

Time words:

now	these days	at this point
today	this morning	this afternoon
this evening	tonight	this week
this month	this quarter	this winter
this year	etc.	

Form: this tense needs some form of the verb (the helping verb) and a main verb + ing **BE + VERB + I - N - G** (BE = helping verb + MAIN VERB+ing)

Questions and negatives: BE is your helping verb—use it for questions and negatives!

(?) Are you studying now?

(?) What are you studying?

(not) She isn't learning this.

(not) They aren't studying.

## SPECIAL CASES: VERBS WITH NO –ING FORM

Remember that some verbs can't have –ing added to them. These are usually verbs that have no action:

1. be
2. other linking verbs: seem, appear, look, etc.
3. sense verbs: hear, see, smell, taste, feel
4. other no action verbs: like, love, hate, want, need, think (opinion)  
understand, know, have (ownership), own

Even when the time is NOW, we can't use present progressive with these verbs.  
Use present simple tense:

He seems happy today.

I see him, but he doesn't see me.

I love grammar now!

Do you smell that soup! It smells great!

This quarter I want to learn a lot of grammar.

## SIMPLE PAST

**Usage:** Use when the action is finished in the past, and we can know the time

Time words:

yesterday morning	yesterday morning	when + S + past verb
last night	last week	when was young
last month	last quarter	when she came here
last year	3 days ago	when I met you
one year ago	7 hours ago	2 months ago
in or on + past date: in 1997/in December/ on Monday		

Form: add “ed” (or “d”) to make the past tense for regular verbs. Memorize the past tense forms of irregular verbs.

smile---smiled	work-----worked
go-----went	be----was/were

**Questions and Negatives:** Use **did** as the helping verb to form questions or negatives for action verbs. The main verb stays in simple form. (No helping verb is needed if the main verb is be):

?	Did they <u>go</u> yesterday?	<u>Was</u> he here yesterday?
?	Where <u>did</u> they go?	Where <u>was</u> he?
<b>(not)</b>	No, they <u>didn't</u> go.	No, he <u>wasn't</u> here.
<b>(not)</b>	She <u>didn't</u> want to go.	

Remember, you only need to show the past once (1 time) for each verb:

wrong:	They didn't <u>went</u> .	(2 times)
wrong:	<u>Did</u> she studied?	(2 times)
right:	They <u>didn't</u> go	(1 time)
right:	<u>Did</u> she study?	(1 time)

## PAST PROGRESSIVE

**Usage:** The use of past progressive is very limited.  
Use past progressive only in these cases:

1. There are 2 actions in the past. One is long, and starts first and continues; the other one is short and begins after the long action started.  
  
EX. While I was taking a shower (LONG), the telephone rang (SHORT, STARTED AFTER THE LONG ACTION).
2. There is one action in the past and the action is longer than the time, or continues during the whole time  
  
EX. Last night at 10:00, I was doing my homework  
EX. He was watching TV all night last night
3. There are two actions in the past and both of them begin and end at the same time.  
  
while  
EX. My roommate was studying and I was listening to music.  
(Can also be simple past)

### Time words:

while + long action  
a point of time

when + short action

(yesterday at 7:00, last year at this time, etc. + longer action)

### Form

BE (past) + verb + ing      was/were + do + ing

**DANGER!** Some verbs are non-progressive (the same as for present progressive) Use simple past instead of past progressive in those cases

**Questions and negatives:** Use was/were as the helping verbs to form negatives and questions

- ? Was he studying when you came over?  
? What were you doing when I called you?

(not) They weren't answering their phone last night.  
(not) She wasn't feeling sick when I saw her.

## FUTURE

**Usage:** Use the future when the action will begin and end at a time after now

Time words:

tomorrow	next week	in an hour
tomorrow morning	next month	in two weeks
tomorrow afternoon	next winter	in a month
tomorrow evening	next quarter	in 3 years
day after tomorrow	next year	future dates: Feb. 2002,
	week after next	August 26, etc.

**Form:** there are **3 basic forms** usually used for the future tense

1. **will + simple form** of the verb:  
**will not** + simple form/**won't** + simple form

Use WILL when you decide as you speak (offer, agree, promise, or ask)

Use WILL when you predict (say what you think will happen)

Use WILL when you give your opinion, or say something you're NOT sure about

2. **be + going to + simple form** of the verb

Use BE GOING TO when you have already decided to do something; you've made a plan

Use BE GOING TO when you predict; use ABE GOING TO when you're sure

3. **be + verb + ing (present progressive)**

Use BE + VERB + ING (PRESENT PROGRESSIVE) like be going to for plans and arrangements, especially with verbs of movement. Include a future time word to be clear

Just one more!

(4. **present simple**)

Use the PRESENT SIMPLE to talk about time schedules in the future—these are like “facts” about when the plane leaves, the movie starts, etc.

**EXAMPLES: statements, questions, and negatives**

1. **will / will not (won't) + simple verb**

He will loan you the money for a cup of coffee.  
She won't be at school tomorrow.  
Will you check my homework?

2. **be going to + simple verb**

She is going to go back home next quarter.  
They aren't going to come on Friday.  
Are you going to the party?

3. **be + verb + ing**

I'm leaving tomorrow.  
He isn't coming to the party tonight.  
Are they eating dinner out tonight?

(4. present simple for schedules)

The train leaves at 8:00.  
The movie doesn't start until 7:00  
Does the store open at 9:00?

- **WH QUESTIONS**

Wh questions with action verbs usually use do or does as the helping verb.  
Check out these examples:

I like movies about adventure.

**What do** you like?      What kind of movies do you like?

He likes to play soccer.

**What does** he like to play?

May's parents help her.

**Who** do May's parents help?

I live in Edmonds.

**Where do** you live?

She gets up at 7:00 every morning.

**When** does she usually get up?

He studies because he wants good grades.

**Why** does he study?

WE DON'T USE A HELPING VERB IF THE QUESTION WORD IS THE SAME AS  
THE SUBJECT OF THE SENTENCE

Cathy teaches grammar.

Who teaches grammar? (who = Cathy = subject)

An accident happened on the freeway.

What happened? (What = an accident = subject)

Jack kissed Rose on the *Titanic*.

Who kissed Rose?(Jack = who = subject)

Khaled gets good grades.

Who gets good grades? (Kaled = who = subject)

An elephant sat on my car.

What sat on your car? (an elephant = what = subject)