

TENSES INFOGRAPHICS



ALWAYS TRUE

Two and two make four.

PERMANENT SITUATIONS

I live in London.

SHORT ACTIONS NOW

He takes the ball and scores a goal!

PRESENT

HABITS

She plays tennis every Tuesday.

Use with: twice a month, on Fridays, often, sometimes.

PRESENT SIMPLE

FUTURE

FUTURE TIMETABLES

Our train leaves at 11am.

Use with: this evening, at 10 o'clock, tomorrow.

FUTURE IN TIME CLAUSES

I won't go out until it stops raining.

Use with: until, when, as soon as, after, before.

UNFINISHED ACTIONS NOW

I'm working at the moment.

Use with: now, at the moment.

TEMPORARY SITUATIONS

I'm living in London.

Use with: at the moment, for a few weeks, for a couple of months.

TEMPORARY HABITS

He's eating a lot these days.

Use with: at the moment, these days.

ANNOYING HABITS

You're forever losing your keys!

Use with: always, forever, constantly.

DEFINITE FUTURE PLANS

I'm meeting my father tomorrow.

Use with: tomorrow, later, at 7pm tonight, on Tuesday.

PRESENT

PRESENT
CONTINUOUS

FUTURE

UNFINISHED

HOW LONG

I've known Karen since 1994.
She's lived in London for three years.

Use with: since 2010, since July,
for ten years, for three days.

UNFINISHED TIME WORD

I haven't seen her this month.

Use with: this week, today, this
month, this year.

PRESENT RESULT

I've lost my keys (so I can't get into my
house).

NEWS / RECENT EVENTS

The Queen has given a speech.

Use with: just / yet / already / recently.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

FINISHED

LIFE EXPERIENCE

I've been to Tokyo.

Use with: ever, never.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FINISHED

PRESENT RESULT

I've been working (that's why I'm tired).

UNFINISHED

HOW LONG

I've been living in London for two years.
She's been working here since 2004.

Use with: since 2010, since July, for ten years, for three days.

TEMPORARY SITUATIONS

I've been going to the gym a lot recently.

Use with: recently.

FINISHED TIME WORD

I went to the cinema yesterday.

Use with: yesterday, last night, in 2003, 6 months ago.

FINISHED TIME PERIOD

Leonardo painted the Mona Lisa.

PAST

DETAILS OF NEWS

I've hurt my leg. I fell off a ladder.

Use with: the present perfect.

PAST SIMPLE

ACTIONS IN STORIES

He sat down and ordered a coffee.

Use with: the past continuous.

PRESENT /
FUTURE

UNREAL / IMAGINARY THINGS

If I won the lottery, I would buy a house.

Use with: wish, it's time, second conditional.

OVERLAPPING ACTION

I was walking to the station when I met John.

Use with: when + past simple, two o'clock, 7pm.

STORY BACKGROUND

The birds were singing and the sun was shining. Amy sat down.

Use with: the past simple.

SOME PAST HABITS

She was constantly singing.

Use with: always, forever, constantly, at that time, in those days.

PAST CONTINUOUS

EMPHASIS OF LENGTH OF ACTION

I was working in the garden all day.

Use with: all day, all evening, for hours.

ACTION FINISHED BEFORE ANOTHER PAST ACTION

When we arrived, the film had started.

Use with: when + past simple, June, last Tuesday.

HOW LONG TO A POINT IN THE PAST

When he graduated, he had been in London for six years.

Use with: when + past simple, for + time.

PAST PERFECT

UNREAL THINGS IN THE PAST

I wish I hadn't gone to bed so late!

Use with: third conditionals, wish.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

HOW LONG TO A POINT IN THE PAST

She had been working at that company for a year when she met James.

Use with: when + past simple, for + time.

RESULT AT A TIME IN THE PAST

The pavement was wet. It had been raining.

Use with: the past simple.

FUTURE PREDICTION

The sun will rise at 7 am.
I think the Conservatives will win the next election.

PROMISES / REQUESTS / REFUSALS / OFFERS

I'll help you with your homework.

FUTURE CONDITIONALS

If it doesn't rain, we'll go to the park.

Use with: the first conditional.

PLANS AND INTENTIONS

A: We've run out of milk.
B: I know. I'm going to buy some.

FUTURE PREDICTION

The sky is getting darker and darker. It's going to rain.

WILL

FUTURE SIMPLE

BE GOING
TO

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

OVERLAPPING ACTION

I'll be waiting when you arrive.

Use with: when + present simple, at 8pm.

FUTURE AS A MATTER OF COURSE

The government will be making a statement later.

Use with: later, tonight, next week on the 2nd of September.

HOW LONG TO A POINT IN THE FUTURE

When we get married, I'll have known Robert for four years.

Use with: when + present simple, by the time + present simple, for + time.

FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

ACTION FINISHED BEFORE A POINT IN THE FUTURE

By ten o'clock, I will have finished my homework.

Use with: by three o'clock, by Friday, when + present simple, by the time + present simple.

HOW LONG TO A POINT IN THE FUTURE

In April, she will have been teaching for twelve years.

Use with: when + present simple, by the time + present simple, for + time.

**FUTURE
PERFECT
CONTINUOUS**

ACTION FINISHED BEFORE A POINT IN THE FUTURE

When I see you, I'll have been studying, so I'll be tired.

Use with: when + present simple, by the time + present simple.