

## Tense Cheat Sheet

Simple Present <b>57.51%*</b>	Simple Past <b>19.7%</b>	Simple Future <b>8.5%</b>
I <u>study</u> English every day. <i>(Competence, habits, true, generally)</i> <i>Near future with a schedule/timetable</i> <i>My flight arrives at 2pm.</i>	Two years ago, I <u>studied</u> English in England. <i>Long or short actions</i> <i>Finished. Locked. Cannot change.</i>	If you are having problems, I <u>will help</u> you study English. <i>Will + infinitive: help, voluntary, prediction, promise</i> I <u>am going to</u> study English next year. <i>be+going to+infinitive (plans, prediction)</i>
Present Continuous <b>5.1%</b>	Past Continuous <b>1.4%</b>	Future Continuous <b>&gt;0.1%</b>
I <u>am studying</u> English now. <i>(Actions happening now, temporarily)</i> <i>I'm not speaking French,</i> <i>I'm speaking English now.</i> <i>Near future: I'm going to a restaurant tonight</i> <i>Exaggeration She's always complaining about the weather</i>	I <u>was studying</u> English when you called yesterday. <i>Interruptions/time reference/parallel actions</i>	I <u>will be studying</u> English when you arrive tonight.  I <u>am going to be studying</u> English when you arrive tonight.
Present Perfect Simple <b>6%</b>	Past Perfect Simple <b>1.2%</b>	Future Perfect Simple <b>0.2%</b>
I <u>have studied</u> English in several different countries. She <u>has</u> just <u>arrived</u> in the office. The phrase focuses on the <b>RESULT</b> (group1). <i>Experience, unfinished actions, recent actions</i>	I <u>had studied</u> a little English before I moved to the U.S. The phrase focuses on the <b>RESULT</b> . Compares the relationship between 2 past actions	I <u>will have studied</u> every tense by the time I finish this course.  I <u>am going to have studied</u> every tense by the time I finish this course. The phrase focuses on the <b>RESULT</b> .
Present Perfect Continuous <b>0.7%</b>	Past Perfect Continuous <b>&gt;0.1%</b>	Future Perfect Continuous <b>&gt;0.1%</b>
I <u>have been studying</u> English for five years. The phrase focuses on the <b>DURATION</b> (Group 1) of the action	I <u>had been studying</u> English for five years before I moved to the U.S. The phrase focuses on the <b>DURATION</b>	I <u>will have been studying</u> English for over two hours by the time you arrive.  I <u>am going to have been studying</u> English for over two hours by the time you arrive. The phrase focuses on the <b>DURATION</b>

**Group 1 verbs:** **Continuous - Action verbs** - measurable, observable verbs - can be used in **Simple** OR **Continuous** tenses e.g. study, read, eat, cycle, run, walk, speak, work, live, play  
12 possible tenses

**Group 2 verbs:** **Non-continuous - Abstract verbs** - emotions - love, like, hate, know, possess, belong, become, enjoy, want, seem, understand... (Can only be used in the **Simple** tenses)  
6 possible tenses

**Group 3 verbs:** **Mixed verbs** - be, have, sensorial: see, look, feel, smell, taste, think, hold

Form <b>Continuous</b> (6 tenses)	BE *She is being American *Elle fait son Americaine	HAVE She is having lunch	SMELL They are smelling the coffee.	TASTE They are tasting the wine.	LOOK She's looking at the TV.	SEE She is seeing him
<b>Non-Continuous</b> (6 tenses)	She is American	She has a son.	The coffee smells great.	The wine tastes good.	She looks great.	She sees him

## Simple present

**Affirmative** SUBJECT + VERB

I speak  
She goes  
I play guitar  
She loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah !

**Negative** SUBJECT + AUX + NOT + INFINITIVE

I **don't** speak  
She **doesn't** speak

**Question** AUX (DO) + SUBJECT + INFINITIVE

**Do** you speak English...?  
**Does** she play the piano?

## Present Continuous

**Affirmative**

I **am speaking** English now.  
I **am going** out tonight (near future)  
You **are studying** English  
She **is studying** Spanish

**Negative**

I **am not speaking** French now.

**Question** AUX + SUBJECT + CONTINUOUS ?

What **are** you **doing** now?  
Where **are** you **going** next week?

## Simple Past

I spoke  
She went  
I played my guitar last night  
I loved

-The Auxiliary defines the tense and, in the simple present, the subject.

I **didn't** speak  
She **didn't** speak

**Did** you speak...?  
**Did** she play the piano?

## Past Continuous

SUBJECT + AUX + CONTINUOUS

I **was driving** when she called.  
She **was working** when he arrived.  
She **was studying** while he **was driving**  
You **were** working when she arrived.  
People/They **were** speaking when the train arrived

SUBJECT + AUX + NOT + CONTINUOUS

She **wasn't listening** when you told me.

What **was** she **doing** when the accident occurred?

## Simple Future

I will speak  
She will go  
I will play  
I will love

I (will not) **won't** speak  
She **won't** speak

**Will** you speak...?  
**Will** she play...?

## Future Continuous

At 8:00 PM tonight I **will be watching** a movie.  
She **will be sleeping** when you get home.

She **won't be working** when the plane lands tonight.

What **will** you be **doing** at this time tomorrow?

## Present Perfect Simple

Affirmative

SUBJECT+ AUX (only the AUX changes) + PAST PARTICIPLE

She **has made** 3 cakes since this morning  
I **have visited** London 3 times

Negative

SUBJECT + AUX + PAST PARTICIPLE

She **hasn't had** time to do her homework yet.  
No, I **have never visited** London.  
No, I **haven't visited** London yet.

Question

AUX+SUBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE

**Have** you ever **visited** London?  
**Has** she ever **seen** Star Wars?

## Past Perfect Simple

She **had saved** the document before the crash.  
She **had had** time to do her homework.

She **hadn't had** time to do her homework yet.

**Had** she **visited** London by the time she was 20?

## Future Perfect Simple

She **will have lived** in Paris for 5 years next week.  
I **will have worked** in Paris for 10 years next February.

She **won't have had** time to do her homework until tonight.

Will she **have had** the time to visit London before she leaves?

## Present Perfect Continuous

Affirmative

SUBJECT + 1st AUX + 2nd AUX + CONTINUOUS

I **have been working** here for 10 years

Negative

SUBJECT + 1st AUX + **NOT** + 2nd AUX + CONTINUOUS

She **hasn't been playing** the piano for 2 years

Question

1st AUX + SUBJECT + 2nd AUX + CONTINUOUS

How long **has** she **been working** here?

Have long **have** you **been living** in Paris?

How long **will** you **have been living** here by the end of the year?

## Infinitive

verb

I like/love/enjoy/prefer/hate/detest to cycle ✓

**Purpose:** I want to cycle ✓

**after adjectives**

It's easy/difficult to cycle ✓

vs.

or

## Past Perfect Continuous

By 2017, I **had been working** here for 9 years

She **hadn't been playing** the piano for a year by 2017

How long **had** you **been working** here this time last year?

## Gerund

verb => noun

I like/love/enjoy/prefer/hate/detest cycling ✓

I want cycling ✗

**after most prepositions**

I read magazines about cycling ✓

## Future Perfect Continuous

By 2020, I **will have been working** here for 12 years.

By 2017, she **will not have been playing** piano for 4 years.

By 2030, how long **will** she not **have been playing** the piano?

How long **will** you **have been studying** English by Christmas?

\* The Most Commonly used English Verb Tenses (Krámsky 1969 et Alzuhairy 2016)