

# ENGLISH VERB TENSES

Tense	Affirmative/ Negative/Question	Use	Signal Words
Simple present	A: He speaks N: He does not speak Q: Does he speak?	An action in the present taking place once, never, or several times; facts; actions taking place one after another; an action set by a timetable or a schedule	Almost, every, normally, never, often, seldom, sometimes (usually if sentences include "I" eg. If I speak . . . ).
Present progressive	A: She is speaking N: She is not speaking Q: Is she speaking?	The action taking place at this precise moment; the action taking place only for a limited amount of time; the action arranged for the future.	At the moment, just, just now, now, right now, Listen!, Look!
Simple past	A: He spoke N: She did not speak Q: Did he speak?	An action in the past taking place once, never, or several times; actions taking place one after another; an action taking place in the middle of another action.	Yesterday, two minutes ago, in 1879, the other day, last Friday (in "I" sentences: if I talked . . . )
Past progressive	A: They were speaking N: They were not speaking Q: Were they speaking.	An action going on at a certain time in the past; actions taking place at the same time; actions in the past that are interrupted by other actions.	when; while; as long as.

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Present perfect simple	A: She has spoken N: She has not spoken Q: Has she spoken?	an emphasis on the result; an action that is still going on; an action that stopped recently; a finished action that has an influence on the present; an action that has taken place once, never, or several times before the moment of speaking.	already, just, ever, never, not yet, so far, till now, up to now.
Present perfect progressive	A: He has been speaking N: He has not been speaking Q: Has he been speaking?	putting an emphasis on the duration, not the result; an action that recently stopped or is still going on; a finished action that influenced the present.	All day, for four years, since 1993, the whole week, how long?
Past perfect simple	A: She had spoken N: She had not spoken Q: Had she spoken?	An action taking place before a certain time in the past; sometimes interchangeable with past perfect progressive; putting emphasis on the fact, not the duration or the result.	Already, just, once, never, not yet, until that day (eg. in "I" sentences - if I had spoken . . . ).



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<p><b><u>Future I Simple</u></b></p>	<p><b>A:</b> He will speak.  <b>N:</b> He will not speak.  <b>Q:</b> Will he speak?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• action in the future that cannot be influenced</li> <li>• <b>spontaneous</b> decision</li> <li>• assumption with regard to the future</li> </ul>	<p>in a year, next ..., tomorrow          If-Satz Typ I (<i>If you ask her, she <b>will help</b> you.</i>)  <i>assumption:</i> I think, probably, perhaps</p>
<p><b><u>Future II Simple</u></b>          (going to)</p>	<p><b>A:</b> He is going to speak.  <b>N:</b> He is not going to speak.  <b>Q:</b> Is he going to speak?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>decision</b> made for the future</li> <li>• <b>conclusion</b> with regard to the future</li> </ul>	<p>in one year, next week, tomorrow</p>

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<p><b><u>Future I</u></b> <b><u>Progressive</u></b></p>	<p>A: He will be speaking. N: He will not be speaking. Q: Will he be speaking?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• action that is <b>going on</b> at a certain time in the future</li> <li>• action that is sure to happen in the near future</li> </ul>	<p>in one year, next week, tomorrow</p>
<p><b><u>Future II</u></b> <b><u>Simple</u></b></p>	<p>A: He will have spoken. N: He will not have spoken. Q: Will he have spoken?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• action that will be <b>finished</b> at a certain time in the future</li> </ul>	<p>by Monday, in a week</p>

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<p><b><u>Future II</u></b> <b><u>Progressive</u></b></p>	<p>A: He will have been speaking. N: He will not have been speaking. Q: Will he have been speaking?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• action taking place before a certain time in the future</li> <li>• putting emphasis is on the <b>course</b> of an action</li> </ul>	<p>for ..., the last couple of hours, all day long</p>
<p><b><u>Conditional I</u></b> <b><u>Simple</u></b></p>	<p>A: He would speak. N: He would not speak. Q: Would he speak?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• action that <b>might</b> take place</li> </ul>	<p>if sentences type II (<i>If I were you, I <b>would go home.</b></i>)</p>
<p><b><u>Conditional I</u></b> <b><u>Progressive</u></b></p>	<p>A: He would be speaking. N: He would not be speaking. Q: Would he be speaking?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• action that might take place</li> <li>• putting emphasis is on the <b>course</b> / <b>duration</b> of the action</li> </ul>	<p>if sentences type II (<i>If I were you, I <b>would go home.</b></i>)</p>

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<p><b><u>Conditional II Simple</u></b></p>	<p>A: He would have spoken.          N: He would not have spoken.          Q: Would he have spoken?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• action that <b>might have taken place</b> in the past</li> </ul>	<p>if sentences type III  <i>(If I had seen that, I <b>would have helped.</b>)</i></p>
<p><b><u>Conditional II Progressive</u></b></p>	<p>A: He would have been speaking.          N: He would not have been speaking.          Q: Would he have been speaking?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• action that might have taken place in the past</li> <li>• puts emphasis is on the <b>course / duration</b> of the action</li> </ul>	

