

The 12 Basic English Tenses

The English Tense System

The links below are to lessons for each of the **12 basic English tenses***. For each tense we look at:

- **Structure:** How do we make the tense?
- **Use:** When and why do we use the tense?

Some lessons look at additional matters, and most of them finish with a quiz to check your understanding.

- **Present Simple**
I do, I do do
- **Present Continuous**
I am doing
- **Present Perfect**
I have done
- **Present Perfect Continuous**
I have been doing
- **Past Simple**
I did, I did do
- **Past Continuous**
I was doing
- **Past Perfect**
I had done
- **Past Perfect Continuous**
I had been doing
- **Future Simple**
I will do
- **Future Continuous**
I will be doing
- **Future Perfect**
I will have done
- **Future Perfect Continuous**
I will have been doing