

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH TENSES... IN ENGLISH FIRST

	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
SIMPLE	<p>An action that ended in the past.</p> <p>Eg. I studied. <i>I studied last year.</i></p>	<p>An action that is habitual or repeated.</p> <p>Eg. Studies/study. <i>He studies every day.</i></p>	<p>A plan for an action in the future</p> <p>Eg. Will study. <i>I will study tomorrow.</i></p>
CONTINUOUS	<p>An action that was happening (past continuous) when another action finished (simple past).</p> <p>Eg. Was/were studying. <i>I was studying when I saw the accident.</i></p>	<p>An action is in the process of happening.</p> <p>Eg. Am/are/is studying. <i>He is studying now.</i></p>	<p>An action that will happen in the future for a length of time.</p> <p>Eg. Will be studying. <i>She will be studying when you arrive tomorrow.</i></p>
PERFECT	<p>An action that finished before another action or time in the past.</p> <p>Eg. Had studied. <i>I had studied before the party.</i></p>	<p>An action that happened at an unsaid time in the past.</p> <p>Eg. Have/has studied. <i>She has studied a lot.</i></p>	<p>An action that will finish before another action or time in the future.</p> <p>Eg. Will have studied. <i>He will have studied before his parents come home.</i></p>
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	<p>An action that happened over time in the past before another action.</p> <p>Eg. Had been studying. <i>He had been studying for a while when he started school.</i></p>	<p>An action that happens over time, starting in the past and continuing into the present.</p> <p>Eg. Have/has been studying. <i>I have been studying since I started school.</i></p>	<p>An action that happens over time in the future before another action.</p> <p>Eg. Will have been studying. <i>We will have been studying for several hours before we can complete the task.</i></p>

