

Grammar: Tenses – Overview (*Grammatik: Zeiten – Überblick*)

1) Use (*Verwendung*)

Past Perfect Tense		Past Tense		Present Perfect Tense		Present Tense		Future Tenses**
Simple	Progressive	Simple	Progressive	Simple	Progressive	Simple	Progressive	...
something that happened before something else in the past		something that happened and ended in the past – there is no relation to the present; mostly it is important when it happened		1) something that started in the past and hasn't yet ended or has an effect on the present – there is relation to the present 2) something that happened in the unspecified past – it is not important when it happened		something that happens in the present		...
simple statements and actions (the action itself is important)	background information and longer actions (the action is not so important)	simple statements and actions (the action itself is important)	background information and longer actions (the action is not so important)	a) simple statements and actions (the action itself is important) b) actions that already ended but have an effect on the present	a) background information and longer actions (the action is not so important) b) actions that started in the past, are still happening and will still last in the future	a) simple general statements (something that is true/false) b) habits c) descriptions	a) things that are happening right now b) temporary situations c) complaints, expressions of anger and annoyance	...

** Future Tenses are explained on an extra sheet

2) Formation (*Bildung*)

Past Perfect Tense		Past Tense		Present Perfect Tense		Present Tense		Future Tenses**
Simple	Progressive	Simple	Progressive	Simple	Progressive	Simple	Progressive	...
had + 3 rd Form	had + been + "ing"-Form	2 nd Form	was/were + "ing"-Form	have/has + 3 rd Form	have/has + been + "ing"-Form	Base Form (3 rd Person "s")	am/are/is + "ing"-Form	...

Explanation of "Forms":

- Base Form: infinitive, unchanged form of the verb as it can be found in a dictionary
- "ing"-Form: Base Form + "ing" (sometimes it can be necessary to leave out the last letter of the verb in Base Form (have – having))
- 2nd Form: regular verbs: Base Form + "ed"
irregular verbs: 2nd Form in verb table (go – **went**)
- 3rd Form: Past Participle;
regular verbs: Base Form + "ed"
irregular verbs: 3rd Form in Table (go – went – **gone**)

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Examples (*Beispiele*):

Past Perfect Tense		Past Tense		Present Perfect Tense		Present Tense		Future Tenses**
Simple	Progressive	Simple	Progressive	Simple	Progressive	Simple	Progressive	...
<i>When he came home, he saw that somebody <u>had broken in through the window</u></i>	<i>They were very tired because they <u>had been working</u> all day long.</i>	<i>He <u>went to the store and bought a book.</u></i>	<i>It was <u>raining</u>, the wind <u>was blowing</u> heavily and the waves <u>were making</u> a loud noise.</i>	a) <i>I <u>have seen</u> the teacher already.</i> b) <i>I <u>have forgotten</u> to call, so he is angry now.</i>	a) <i>He <u>has been waiting</u> in the rain for 20 minutes.</i> b) <i>I <u>have been reading</u> a good book lately – it has 200 pages and I am reading page 40 right now.</i>	a) <i>The sun <u>rises</u> in the east.</i> b) <i>We always <u>walk</u> to school.</i> c) <i>The car <u>is</u> yellow with blue stripes.</i>	a) <i>Listen, she <u>is crying!</u></i> b) <i>He <u>is working</u> in a bar although usually he works as a teacher.</i> c) <i>The bus <u>is always coming</u> late.</i>	...

** Future Tenses are explained on an extra sheet