VERB TENSES

SIMPLE PRESENT:

• **Usage:** use simple present for facts (always true, never change) and habits (everyday life, actions that we usually do or don’t do)

**Time words:** simple present is often used words like these:
- every day
- once a week
- every week
- twice a month
- every year
- on Sundays
- every winter
- weekly
- every Saturday
- every other day
- etc.

• **Statements:** (regular sentences): Use the simple form (dictionary form-no ed, ing, s, etc).

- I study English.
- We attend EdCC
- They like parties.

- He/She/It: be careful to add “s” (or –es or –ies) to the verb if the subject is he, she or it.

- She studies English
- We attend EdCC
- It rains every day.
- Cathy likes grammar.
- The teacher worries about his students.

• **Y/N Questions and negatives:** when we make questions(?) or negatives (not) we use do or does as helping verbs with the simple form of the main verb:

- ? Do they always do their homework?
  - not No, they don’t always do their homework.

- ? Does she usually come to school on time?
  - not No, she doesn’t usually come on time. She never comes on time!

**Remember these things about BE in Simple Present**

- **BE as main verb:** When BE is the main verb, you don’t need a helping verb for questions or negatives. Just use BE.

- ? Is he crazy?
  - not No, he isn’t crazy.

- **BE with adverbs of frequency:** Remember that the adverb follows, or comes after “be”
  - I am never late vs. I never come late.
PRESENT PROGRESSIVE:

Usage: Use present progressive to talk about now, the time around now, and things that will change in the future (things that are not forever):

Time words:
- now
- today
- this evening
- this month
- this year
- these days
- this morning
- tonight
- this quarter
- this winter
- at this point
- this afternoon
- this week
- etc.

Form: this tense needs some form of the verb (the helping verb) and a main verb + ing. **BE + VERB + I - N - G** (BE = helping verb + MAIN VERB + ing)

Questions and negatives: **BE** is your helping verb—use it for questions and negatives!

(?) Are you studying now?
(?) What **are** you studying?

(not) She isn’t learning this.
(not) They aren’t studying.

SPECIAL CASES: VERBS WITH NO –ING FORM

Remember that some verbs can’t have –ing added to them. These are usually verbs that have no action:

1. **be**
2. other linking verbs: seem, appear, look, etc.
3. sense verbs: hear, see, smell, taste, feel
4. other no action verbs: like, love, hate, want, need, think (opinion)
   understand, know, have (ownership), own

Even when the time is NOW, we can’t use present progressive with these verbs. Use present simple tense:

He seems happy today.
I see him, but he doesn’t see me.
I love grammar now!
Do you smell that soup! It smells great!
This quarter I want to grammar learn a lot of grammar.
SIMPLE PAST

Usage: Use when the action is finished in the past, and we can know the time.

Time words:

- yesterday morning
- last night
- last month
- last year
- one year ago
- in or on + past date: in 1997/in December/on Monday

Form: add “ed” (or “d”) to make the past tense for regular verbs. Memorize the past tense forms of irregular verbs.

- smile---smiled
- work-----worked
- go-----went
- be----was/were

Questions and Negatives: Use did as the helping verb to form questions or negatives for action verbs. The main verb stays in simple form. (No helping verb is needed if the main verb is be):

- ? Did they go yesterday? Was he here yesterday?
- ? Where did they go? Where was he?
- (not) No, they didn’t go. No, he wasn’t here.
- (not) She didn’t want to go.

Remember, you only need to show the past once (1 time) for each verb:

- wrong: They didn’t went. (2 times)
- wrong: Did she studied? (2 times)
- right: They didn’t go (1 time)
- right: Did she study? (1 time)
PAST PROGRESSIVE

Usage: The use of past progressive is very limited. Use past progressive only in these cases:

1. There are 2 actions in the past. One is long, and starts first and continues; the other one is short and begins after the long action started.

   EX. While I was taking a shower (LONG), the telephone rang (SHORT, STARTED AFTER THE LONG ACTION).

2. There is one action in the past and the action is longer than the time, or continues during the whole time

   EX. Last night at 10:00, I was doing my homework
   EX. He was watching TV all night last night

3. There are two actions in the past and both of them begin and end at the same time.

   While

   EX. My roommate was studying and I was listening to music.
   (Can also be simple past)

Time words:

while + long action when + short action
a point of time
(yesterday at 7:00, last year at this time, etc. + longer action)

Form

BE (past) + verb + ing was/were + do + ing

DANGER! Some verbs are non-progressive (the same as for present progressive) Use simple past instead of past progressive in those cases

Questions and negatives: Use was/were as the helping verbs to form negatives and questions

? Was he studying when you came over?
? What were you doing when I called you?

(not) They weren’t answering their phone last night.
(not) She wasn’t feeling sick when I saw her.
FUTURE

Usage: Use the future when the action will begin and end at a time after now.

Time words:

- tomorrow
- tomorrow morning
- tomorrow afternoon
- tomorrow evening
- day after tomorrow
- next week
- next month
- next winter
- next quarter
- next year
- future dates: Feb. 2002, August 26, etc.

Form: there are 3 basic forms usually used for the future tense

1. **will** + **simple form** of the verb:
   - **will not** + simple form/ **won’t** + simple form
   Use WILL when you decide as you speak (offer, agree, promise, or ask)
   Use WILL when you predict (say what you think will happen)
   Use WILL when you give your opinion, or say something you’re NOT sure about

2. **be** + **going to** + **simple form** of the verb
   Use BE GOING TO when you have already decided to do something; you’ve made a plan
   Use BE GOING TO when your predict; use ABE GOING TO when you’re sure

3. **be** + **verb** + **ing** (present progressive)
   Use BE + VERB + ING (PRESENT PROGRESSIVE) like be going to for plans and arrangements, especially with verbs of movement. Include a future time word to be clear
Just one more!

(4. present simple)

Use the PRESENT SIMPLE to talk about time schedules in the future—these are like “facts” about when the plane leaves, the movie starts, etc.

**EXAMPLES:** statements, questions, and negatives

1. **will / will not (won’t) + simple verb**

   He will loan you the money for a cup of coffee.
   She won’t be at school tomorrow.
   Will you check my homework?

2. **be going to + simple verb**

   She is going to go back home next quarter.
   They aren’t going to come on Friday.
   Are you going to the party?

3. **be + verb + ing**

   I’m leaving tomorrow.
   He isn’t coming to the party tonight.
   Are they eating dinner out tonight?

(4. present simple for schedules)

   The train leaves at 8:00.
   The movie doesn’t start until 7:00
   Does the store open at 9:00?
• **WH QUESTIONS**

Wh questions with action verbs usually use *do* or *does* as the helping verb. Check out these examples:

I like movies about adventure.  
*What do* you like?  
What kind of movies do you like?

He likes to play soccer.  
*What does* he like to play?

May’s parents help her.  
*Who* do May’s parents help?

I live in Edmonds.  
*Where do* you live?

She gets up at 7:00 every morning.  
*When does* she usually get up?

He studies because he wants good grades.  
*Why does* he study?

WE DON’T USE A HELPING VERB IF THE QUESTION WORD IS THE SAME AS THE SUBJECT OF THE SENTENCE

Cathy teaches grammar.  
Who teaches grammar?  
(who = Cathy = subject)

An accident happened on the freeway.  
What happened?  
(What = an accident = subject)

Jack kissed Rose on the *Titanic*.  
Who kissed Rose?  
(Jack = who = subject)

Khaled gets good grades.  
Who gets good grades?  
(Khaled = who = subject)

An elephant sat on my car.  
What sat on your car?  
(an elephant = what = subject)