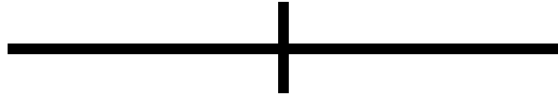


# TENSE

When it occurs in time

Before                  Now                  Later



English has only **two** true tenses:

**PRESENT:**        "I do it."

**PAST:**            "I did it."

You can say that English has a future tense, but technically it does not. It has four main **MODES** of expressing futurity. Each has slight semantic (meaning) differences. But there is **no** verb **inflection** showing time.

"I will do it."	(promise)
"I am going to do it."	(intention)
"I'm doing it tomorrow."	(planned)
"My plane leaves next Friday."	(scheduled)

# ASPECT

How it occurs in tense



"I was reading a book when you called."

**Continuous** shows that an activity or state is ongoing without stopping.



"I was working on a paper last summer."

**Progressive** shows that the activity is starting and stopping over a period of time. In English the progressive tense can reflect either a **progressive** or **continuous** action.

The **Perfect** is an aspect even though it is often called a tense. It is used to show actions of unspecified or unimportant time or changes over time.

# MOOD

One's attitude toward the action or state

**Imperative:** commands, orders, directions

"Do it!" "Put it down!"

"Cut up two tomatoes."

**Subjunctive:** opinion, requests

"It's important that she be here."

"We demanded that he leave."

**Deontic:** suggestions, permissions

"You should do it." "You may go."

"You could try asking someone else."

**Epistemic:** chance, possibility, probability

"It may rain." "It could snow."

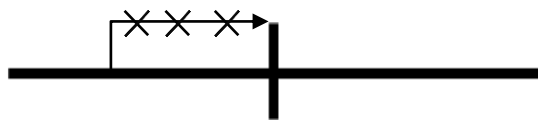
**Conditional:** factual, predictive, counterfactual

"I am happy when it rains."

"It will rain if the wind changes."

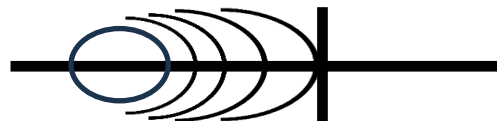
"It would rain if it were winter."

The **Perfect** can be used to express repetition of an activity before now, usually expressing that its reoccurrence may happen again.



"We have had three tests so far this semester."

The **Perfect** is typically used to show that a past action has an effect or relevance on the present or has become part of an experience.



"I have hiked Africa, Europe, and Asia."

Some languages have a **Perfect** & a **Perfective** aspect. Both mean "complete" but in English the **Perfect** aspect does not have to be **Perfective**. So, it can also be **imperfective** or **continuous**.

"I have been sitting here for four hours."

"I have been living here all of my life."

