

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 aspect 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."

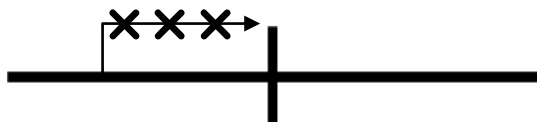
Conditional: factual, predictive, counterfactual

"I am happy when it rains."

"It will rain if the wind changes."

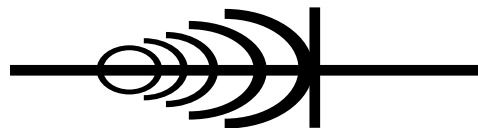
"It would rain if it were winter."

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 am well-traveled as 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."

