**Table of English Tenses**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tense**  **(weblink)** | **Affirmative/Negative/**  **Question** | **Use** | **Signal Words** |
| [**Simple Present**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/simple-present) | A: He speaks. N: He does not speak. Q: Does he speak? | * action in the present taking place regularly, never or several times * facts * actions taking place one after another * action set by a timetable or schedule | always, every …, never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually if sentences type I (If I talk, …) |
| [**Present Progressive**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/present-progressive) | A: He is speaking. N: He is not speaking. Q: Is he speaking? | * action taking place in the moment of speaking * action taking place only for a limited period of time * action arranged for the future | at the moment, just, just now, Listen!, Look!, now, right now |
| [**Simple Past**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/simple-past) | A: He spoke. N: He did not speak. Q: Did he speak? | * action in the past taking place once, never or several times * actions taking place one after another * action taking place in the middle of another action | yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday if sentence type II (If I talked, …) |
| [**Past Progressive**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/past-progressive) | A: He was speaking. N: He was not speaking. Q: Was he speaking? | * action going on at a certain time in the past * actions taking place at the same time * action in the past that is interrupted by another action | while, as long as |
| [**Present Perfect Simple**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/present-perfect-simple) | A: He has spoken. N: He has not spoken. Q: Has he spoken? | * putting emphasis on the result * action that is still going on * action that stopped recently * finished action that has an influence on the present * action that has taken place once, never or several times before the moment of speaking | already, ever, just, never, not yet, so far, till now, up to now |
| [**Present Perfect Progressive**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/present-perfect-progressive) | A: He has been speaking. N: He has not been speaking. Q: Has he been speaking? | * putting emphasis on the course or duration (not the result) * action that recently stopped or is still going on * finished action that influenced the present | all day, for 4 years, since 1993, how long?, the whole week |
| [**Past Perfect Simple**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/past-perfect-simple) | A: He had spoken. N: He had not spoken. Q: Had he spoken? | * action taking place before a certain time in the past * sometimes interchangeable with past perfect progressive * putting emphasis only on the fact (not the duration) | already, just, never, not yet, once, until that day if sentence type III (If I had talked, …) |
| [**Past Perfect Progressive**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/past-perfect-progressive) | A: He had been speaking. N: He had not been speaking. Q: Had he been speaking? | * action taking place before a certain time in the past * sometimes interchangeable with past perfect simple * putting emphasis on the duration or course of an action | for, since, the whole day, all day |
| [**Future I Simple**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/future-1-will) | A: He will speak. N: He will not speak.  Q: Will he speak? | * action in the future that cannot be influenced * spontaneous decision * assumption with regard to the future | in a year, next …, tomorrow If-Satz Typ I (If you ask her, she will help you.) assumption: I think, probably, perhaps |
| [**Future II Progressive**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/future-2-progressive) | A: He will have been speaking. N: He will not have been speaking. Q: Will he have been speaking? | * action taking place before a certain time in the future * putting emphasis on the course of an action | for …, the last couple of hours, all day long |
| [**Conditional I Simple**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/conditional-1-simple) | A: He would speak. N: He would not speak. Q: Would he speak? | * action that might take place | if sentences type II (If I were you, I would go home.) |
| [**Conditional II Simple**](https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/conditional-2-simple) | A: He would have spoken. N: He would not have spoken. Q: Would he have spoken? | * action that might have taken place in the past | if sentences type III (If I had seen that, I would have helped.) |