
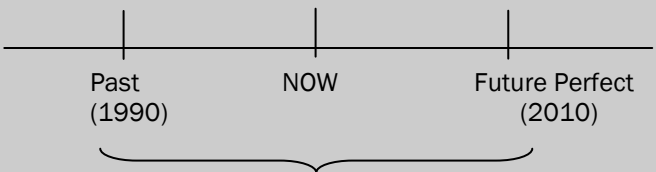
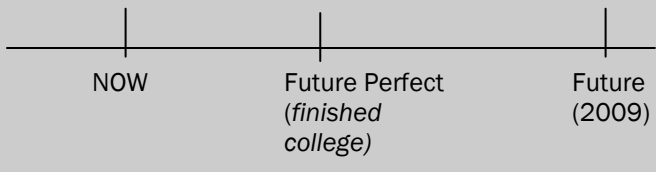


Introduction To Some English Verb Tenses And Commonly-Used Meanings

		LEGEND				
		V = verb itself	V ing = 'ing' form	V 3 = past participle		
TENSE	STRUCTURE	MEANINGS & EXAMPLES				
Simple Present	V = verb itself 3 rd person singular	<u>Single Event/Action Happening Now</u> This chocolate cake tastes great!	<u>Permanent Facts</u> The sun rises in the east.	<u>Habitual Actions</u> He always eats breakfast before he goes to work.		<u>Commonly Used Words</u> always, often, frequently, usually, sometimes, seldom, occasionally, rarely, never, every day, week..... once a day, week.
Present Continuous	am is V ing are	<u>Action in Progress Now</u> Right now I'm eating my lunch.	<u>Temporary Action</u> I work with my father, but this year I am studying at Humber.	<u>Future Plans</u> We are moving to a new apartment next week.	<u>Frequent Action</u> He is constantly complaining about his workload. (expresses emotion)	<u>Non-Action Verbs NOT Used in Continuous Form</u> love, like, hate, prefer, detest, admire, know, understand, believe, think (opinion), realize
Simple Past	V -ed regular verbs * Irregular verbs	<u>Action Completed in the Past</u> I baked a cake yesterday.				
Past Continuous	was/were V ing	<u>Continuous Past</u> <u>Action in Progress</u> Between 10 and 11 am he was watching the soccer match.	<u>Repeated Action</u> When I saw him, he was painting the fence.			
Simple Future	will V	<u>Prediction</u> Your savings will disappear.	<u>Inevitability</u> We'll need more tables and chairs.	<u>Promise</u> I'll spend your money carefully.	<u>Determination</u> The college will hire more staff.	

	be going to V	<u>Prediction</u> Your savings are going to disappear.	<u>Inevitability</u> We're going to need more tables and chairs.			
Simple Present Perfect	have/has V 3 V3 = past participle	<u>Action Started in the Past and Continues to the Present</u> He has known her for 10 years.	<u>"Already" (Action Completed)</u> I have already done my homework.	<u>Action Covering a Lifetime</u> All my life I have loved Northern Ontario.	<u>Very Recently Completed Actions</u> He has just left. Keyword = just	<u>Action Completed in the Past but has Results/Relevance in the Present</u> I have lived in Italy, so now I can speak Italian.
Simple Past Perfect	had V 3	<u>Action Completed in the Past before Another Past Point</u> When I arrived, he had already eaten. Shows the order of events in the past – one earlier (<i>had eaten</i>) and one later (<i>came home</i>) 				<u>Commonly Used Words</u> just, recently, already, scarcely, barely, ever, never, yet, still <u>Commonly Used with Adverbial Clauses starting with:</u> until, before, after, when, because, although
Simple Future Perfect	will have V 3	<u>Action that Starts Anytime and Continues Through a Future Point in Time</u> By the year 2010, I will have known him for 20 years. 	<u>Action Completed in the Future Before a Future Point in Time</u> By 2009, he will have finished college. 			

Reference: Hartmann, P., Exparaza, P. P., & Zarian, A. (1984). Tense Situations:Tenses in Contrast and Context. Fort Worth: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

For Additional Reference Material and Online Exercises, try <http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/verbtenseintro.html>