

Verb Tense Review 1 – The Simple Tenses

Table of Contents

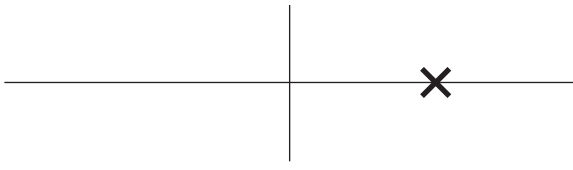
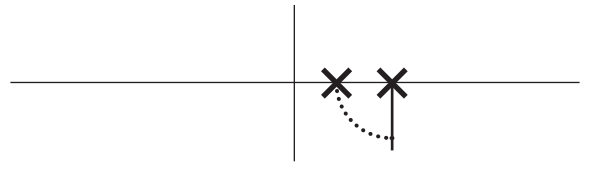
2	Grammar Notes The 6 Simple Tenses & Their Time Markers	9	Exercise 7 The Simple Past & the Past Progressive
5	Exercise 1 The Simple Present, Past & Future	10	Exercise 8 The Simple Future & the Future Progressive
5	Exercise 2 The Simple Present, Past & Future	11	Exercise 9 All Tenses
6	Exercise 3 The Simple Present, Past & Future	12	Exercise 10 All Tenses
7	Exercise 4 The Simple Past & the Simple Future	12	Exercise 11 All Tenses
7	Exercise 5 The Simple Past & the Simple Future	13	Exercise 12 Quiz
8	Exercise 6 The Simple Present & the Present Progressive	14	Answer Key

Grammar Notes

THE 6 SIMPLE TENSES & THEIR TIME MARKERS

Tense	Simple Present	Present Progressive	
Diagram			
Form	Base Verb (+ -s for third person singular)	Be + -ing Verb	
Function	A repeated action	A continuing present action	
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adverbs of frequency (always, usually, sometimes, never, etc.) every once, twice, three times, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> now right now at the moment at this time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nowadays these days currently presently
Example	I always eat breakfast.	I'm doing my homework now.	
Tense	Simple Past	Past Progressive	
Diagram			
Form	REGULAR VERBS: Verb + -ed IRREGULAR VERBS: Various changes	Was / Were + -ing Verb	
Function	A defined past action (we know when the action occurred)	A long past action interrupted by a short past action	Two long past actions occurring at the same time
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> yesterday the day before yesterday last ago when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when while
Example	I went to the gym last week.	I was studying when the phone rang.	I was daydreaming while you were talking.

Grammar Notes cont.

Tense	Simple Future	Future Progressive
Diagram		
Form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will + Base Verb Be Going To + Base Verb Be + -ing Verb 	Will + Be + -ing Verb
Function	A future action	A long future action interrupted by a short future action
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tomorrow the day after tomorrow from now next when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when
Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will call you tomorrow night. I am going to call you tomorrow night. I'm calling you tomorrow night. 	I will be sleeping when the girls get home.

Note #1

INDICATING TIME

There are other ways to indicate time in an English sentence besides using time markers.

Context

One way is to notice the **context**. For example, if someone is talking about last weekend, then all of the verbs will probably be in the simple past tense even though "last weekend" may only be mentioned in one sentence.

- I **went** to a great party last weekend.
We **ate** lots of delicious food and **danced** until dawn.

Other Verbs

Another way is to notice the **other verbs** in the sentence. For example, if a verb is in the simple past tense, then the other verb is almost always in the past as well, even if no time markers are used.

- They **asked** for directions, but they still **got** lost.

Grammar Notes cont.

Note #2

FUTURE VERBS

For the simple future and the future progressive tenses, remember the rule "No two wills." We can never use *will*, *be going to*, *be + -ing verb*, or *will + be + -ing verb* twice in a sentence. The rule is to use the future tense in the independent clause, and the simple present in the dependent clause. Remember that even though the simple present is used, the whole sentence still has a future meaning!

- I **will graduate** when I **finish** my exams.
- When I **finish** my exams, I **will graduate**.

Note #3

NON-ACTION VERBS

Note that the present progressive tense is almost never used with non-action verbs. In English, the simple present is used with non-action verbs even when a present progressive time marker appears in the sentence. Non-action verbs include *be*, *have*, *feelings*, *thinking verbs*, and *the five senses*.

- ✓ She **is** hungry now.
- ✗ She **is being** hungry now.
- ✓ He **likes** horror movies nowadays.
- ✗ He **is liking** horror movies nowadays.

Exercise 1

THE SIMPLE PRESENT, PAST & FUTURE

Choose a word from the box, and use it to form the simple present, simple past, or simple future tense.

1. My dog jumped into the bathtub with me yesterday.
2. The choir _____ at the concert tomorrow night.
3. She always _____ on the track behind the school.
4. They _____ for their honeymoon tomorrow night.
5. He _____ beside me every day in class.
6. Last night I _____ to my boyfriend for hours.

Word List:

- ~~jump~~
- leave
 - sing
 - run
 - talk
 - sit

Exercise 2

THE SIMPLE PRESENT, PAST & FUTURE

Choose a word from the box, and use it to form the simple present, simple past, or simple future tense. Use negative forms.

1. They probably won't go to the meeting tonight.
2. John usually _____ for his math tests.
3. The car swerved and _____ the tree.
4. The restaurant owner gets mad when his employees _____ their hands.
5. We _____ the game, but we had a great time.
6. She _____ her homework tomorrow.

Word List:

- wash
 - hit
 - finish
- ~~go~~
- study
 - win

Exercise 3

THE SIMPLE PRESENT, PAST & FUTURE

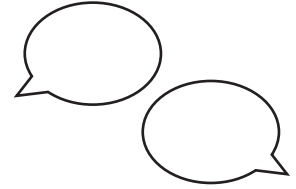
Use the words in parentheses to form the simple present, simple past, or simple future tense.

1. I bought a new dress last week.
(buy)
2. My sister _____ breakfast every day.
(eat)
3. Our teacher this year _____ never satisfied with our work.
(be)
4. The pilot _____ at the airport until after 9:00 tomorrow night.
(arrive, not)
5. I _____ to your party if you really want me to.
(come)
6. She _____ happy when she heard the bad news.
(be, not)
7. _____ you _____ me the day after tomorrow?
(call)
8. He _____ shopping very often. He prefers to buy things online.
(go, not)
9. _____ your brother _____ you two weeks ago?
(visit)
10. _____ she usually _____ a dress to school?
(wear)

Exercise 4

THE SIMPLE PAST & THE SIMPLE FUTURE

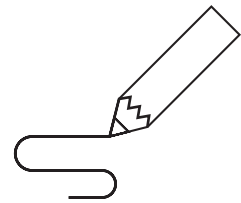
What did you do last weekend? What are you going to do next weekend? Get into pairs or small groups, and discuss your weekend plans. Use past and future verbs.



Exercise 5

THE SIMPLE PAST & THE SIMPLE FUTURE

Write two paragraphs about traveling. Write the first paragraph about a holiday you enjoyed (use past verbs). Write the second paragraph about a trip you are planning to take (use future verbs).



Exercise 6

THE SIMPLE PRESENT & THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

Complete the story. Use the verbs provided to form sentences with the simple present or the present progressive tense.

Every Sunday my family _____ to the zoo. My little sister _____ the lions.
1. go 2. love

We _____ at the zoo right now, and it _____ a beautiful day.
3. be 4. be

We _____ the big cat show. The zookeeper _____ the lions.
5. watch 6. feed

The lions always _____ excited at mealtime! They usually _____ over the meat,
7. get 8. fight

and my sister _____ scared sometimes. But today she _____ afraid.
9. get 10. feel, not

Today she _____ and _____ her hands.
11. smile 12. clap

I _____ that she _____ to bring a lion home as a pet.
13. think 14. want

Now she _____ out to the lions, "Here, kitty, kitty!"
15. call

Exercise 7

THE SIMPLE PAST & THE PAST PROGRESSIVE

A. Matching

Work with a partner to make complete sentences. Take turns reading the completed sentences out loud. Do they all make sense?

- | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <u> d </u> | 1. when my alarm clock rang | a) I was daydreaming |
| <u> </u> | 2. when my car hit the tree | b) I was waiting for her |
| <u> </u> | 3. when the phone rang | c) I was taking a shower |
| <u> </u> | 4. when the teacher yelled at me | d) I was sleeping |
| <u> </u> | 5. when my grandmother arrived at the airport | e) I was driving |
| <u> </u> | 6. when it was time to leave the office | f) I was still writing the report |

B. Writing

Now write the complete sentences.
Don't forget to add a comma when you begin your sentence with "when."

1. When my alarm clock rang, I was sleeping. / I was sleeping when my alarm clock rang.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Exercise 8

THE SIMPLE FUTURE & THE FUTURE PROGRESSIVE

Work with a small group. Imagine that you are hosting a big party for your friend's birthday. Now imagine what you and your guests will be doing at various times during the party. Share ideas and complete the sentences below together.

Ex. When the food is served, *our guests will be starving.* _____

1. When our friend arrives, _____

2. When it's time for presents, _____

3. When the dancing starts, _____

4. When the music stops, _____

5. When the cake is served, _____

Exercise 9

ALL TENSES

Rewrite the sentences by changing the verb tense.
Change the time marker if necessary.

1. He doesn't feel good right now. (*past*)

2. The cat caught a bird. (*future*)

3. My neighbor was waiting for the package to arrive. (*present progressive*)

4. I watched TV for two hours last night. (*past progressive*)

5. The students are going to take a test next week. (*past*)

6. She is studying French nowadays. (*future*)

7. They went to the park a week ago. (*present progressive*)

8. I went swimming every day when I was a child. (*present*)

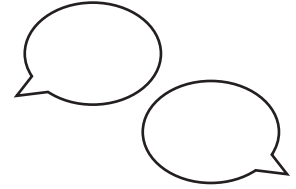
9. Mary was playing the guitar when the phone rang. (*future progressive*)

10. Our teacher told us to be quiet. (*present progressive*)

Exercise 10

ALL TENSES

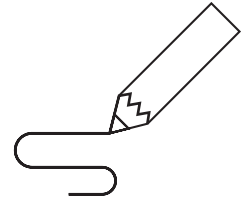
Get into pairs or small groups and discuss your goals and dreams. When you were a child, what dreams did you have for the future (job, family, etc.)? What ambitions do you have for the future? What steps are you taking now to accomplish your goals? Try to use all six verb tenses as often as you can.



Exercise 11

ALL TENSES

Write a short story about something that affected you in the past. It can be real or made-up. Describe the past event, and explain how it affects you nowadays. Write about how you think it will affect you in the future, and what steps you will take to overcome or learn from it. Try to use all six verb tenses at least once.



Exercise 12

QUIZ

Complete the story. Use the verbs provided to form sentences with the appropriate verb tense.

I _____ to travel. When I was young, I _____ to Paris.
1. love 2. go

I _____ the day that I _____ the Eiffel Tower.
3. remember 4. visit

We _____ the elevator to the top of the Eiffel Tower when it suddenly _____.
5. ride 6. break down

Everyone _____ really scared, and it took two hours for them to rescue us.
7. be

But that _____ me from wanting to go back to Paris. In fact, I _____ another trip
8. stop, not 9. plan

now. I _____ back to Paris next summer. I _____ so excited!
10. go 11. be

Last time I only _____ for one week, so this time I _____ for three weeks. In my
12. go 13. go

mind, I _____ on the Avenue des Champs-Élysées already. I _____ time to visit the
14. shop 15. have, not

Louvre on my last trip, so this time I _____ there for sure.
16. go

Even though I _____ excited, sometimes I dream that I _____ to the top of the
17. feel 18. ride

Eiffel Tower when the elevator _____. But then I _____,
19. break down 20. wake up

and I _____ that it probably _____ again.
21. realize 22. happen, not

At the moment, I _____ the days!
23. count down

Answer Key

NOTE:

When the simple future tense is required, answers using the form *will + base verb* are listed below, but other future forms (*be going to + verb* or *be + -ing verb*) may be possible.

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

This review lesson offers exercises that combine two or more of the following tenses: the simple present, simple past, simple future, present progressive, past progressive, and future progressive. Students will also find handy tips about time markers so that they can recognize these tenses in context. Use this lesson as a review or quiz after studying the tenses separately.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 2 hours

TAGS: simple present, simple past, simple future, present progressive, past progressive, future progressive, negative forms, time markers, mixed tenses, verbs, verb tenses, simple tenses, verb tense review

Exercise 1

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. jumped | 3. runs | 5. sits |
| 2. will sing | 4. will leave | 6. talked |

Exercise 2

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. won't go | 3. didn't hit | 5. didn't win |
| 2. doesn't study | 4. don't wash | 6. won't finish |

Exercise 3

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. bought | 6. wasn't |
| 2. eats | 7. Will, call |
| 3. is | 8. doesn't go |
| 4. won't arrive | 9. Did, visit |
| 5. will come | 10. Does, wear |

Exercise 4

Answers will vary. You may choose to assign a group member to keep track of how many times each student uses the past and future forms.

Exercise 5

Answers will vary.

Exercise 6

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. goes | 6. is feeding | 11. is smiling |
| 2. loves | 7. get | 12. clapping |
| 3. are | 8. fight | 13. think |
| 4. is | 9. gets | 14. wants |
| 5. are watching | 10. doesn't feel | 15. is calling |

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 7

A. MATCHING

1. d 2. e 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. f

B. WRITING

- When my alarm clock rang, I was sleeping. /
I was sleeping when my alarm clock rang.
- When my car hit the tree, I was driving. /
I was driving when my car hit the tree.
- When the phone rang, I was taking a shower. /
I was taking a shower when the phone rang.
- When the teacher yelled at me, I was daydreaming. /
I was daydreaming when the teacher yelled at me.
- When my grandmother arrived at the airport, I was waiting for her. / I was waiting for my grandmother when she arrived at the airport.
- When it was time to leave the office, I was still writing the report. / I was still writing the report when it was time to leave the office.

Exercise 8

Answers will vary.

Exercise 9

Time markers may vary.

- He didn't feel good yesterday.
- The cat will catch a bird.
- My neighbor is waiting for the package to arrive.
- I was watching TV for two hours last night.
- The students took a test last week.
- She will study French next month.
- They are going to the park now.
- I go swimming every day.
- Mary will be playing the guitar when the phone rings.
- Our teacher is telling us to be quiet.

Exercise 10

Answers will vary. You may choose to assign a group member to keep track of how many times each student uses each verb tense.

Exercise 11

Answers will vary.

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 12

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. love | 14. am shopping |
| 2. went | 15. didn't have |
| 3. remember | 16. am going to go /
am going / will go |
| 4. visited / was visiting | 17. feel |
| 5. were riding | 18. will be riding / am riding |
| 6. broke down | 19. breaks down |
| 7. was | 20. wake up |
| 8. doesn't stop / didn't stop | 21. realize |
| 9. am planning | 22. won't happen /
isn't going to happen |
| 10. am going to go /
am going / will go | 23. am counting down |
| 11. am | |
| 12. went | |
| 13. am going to go /
am going / will go | |

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Traveling* and *Neighbor*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Travelling* and *Neighbour*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

This lesson should show you which tenses your students are still struggling with. Try the following sections for further practice:

- Grammar Practice Worksheets
<https://ellii.com/lessons/grammar-practice-worksheets>
- Basic Grammar Sentences
<https://ellii.com/lessons/basic-grammar-sentences>
- Grammar Stories
<https://ellii.com/lessons/grammar-stories>

For answers requiring the simple future tense, *will + base verb* is listed, but other future forms may be possible (*be going to + verb*, *be + -ing verb*).