

# english tenses

tense	Affirmative/Negative/Question	Use	Signal Words
Simple Present	A: He speaks. N: He does not speak. Q: Does he speak?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>action in the present taking place once, never or several times               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>facts</li> </ul> </li> <li>actions taking place one after another</li> <li>action set by a timetable or schedule</li> </ul>	always, every ..., never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually if sentences type I (If I talk, ...)
Present Progressive	A: He is speaking. N: He is not speaking. Q: Is he speaking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>action taking place in the moment of speaking</li> <li>action taking place only for a limited period of time</li> <li>action arranged for the future</li> </ul>	at the moment, just, just now, Listen!, Look!, now, right now
Simple Past	A: He spoke. N: He did not speak. Q: Did he speak?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>action in the past taking place once, never or several times</li> <li>actions taking place one after another</li> <li>action taking place in the middle of another action</li> </ul>	yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday if sentence type II (If I talked, ...)
Past Progressive	A: He was speaking. N: He was not speaking. Q: Was he speaking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>action going on at a certain time in the past</li> <li>actions taking place at the same time</li> <li>action in the past that is interrupted by another action</li> </ul>	when, while, as long as
Present Perfect Simple	A: He has spoken. N: He has not spoken. Q: Has he spoken?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>putting emphasis on the result</li> <li>action that is still</li> </ul>	already, ever, just, never, not yet, so far, till

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>going on</li> <li>action that stopped recently</li> <li>finished action that has an influence on the present</li> <li>action that has taken place once, never or several times before the moment of speaking</li> </ul>	now, up to now
Present Perfect Progressive	A: He has been speaking. N: He has not been speaking. Q: Has he been speaking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>putting emphasis on the course or duration (not the result)</li> <li>action that recently stopped or is still going on</li> <li>finished action that influenced the present</li> </ul>	all day, for 4 years, since 1993, how long?, the whole week
Past Perfect Simple	A: He had spoken. N: He had not spoken. Q: Had he spoken?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>action taking place before a certain time in the past</li> <li>sometimes interchangeable with past perfect progressive</li> <li>putting emphasis only on the fact (not the duration)</li> </ul>	already, just, never, not yet, once, until that day if sentence type III (If I had talked, ...)
Past Perfect Progressive	A: He had been speaking. N: He had not been speaking. Q: Had he been speaking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>action taking place before a certain time in the past</li> <li>sometimes interchangeable with past perfect simple</li> <li>putting emphasis on the duration or course of an action</li> </ul>	for, since, the whole day, all day
Future I Simple	A: He will speak. N: He will not speak. Q: Will he speak?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>action in the future that cannot be influenced</li> </ul>	in a year, next ..., tomorrow If Satz Typ I

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• spontaneous decision</li><li>• assumption with regard to the future</li></ul>	(If you ask her, she will help you.) assumption: I think, probably, perhaps
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