

English for Study Skills

Pre-Sessional English

verb tense

Morning English

1. **simple**
2. **continuous (progressive)**
3. perfect
4. perfect continuous (progressive)

Introduction to Verbs

What are verbs?

All sentences contain verbs

Show action

- ▶ The bear **growls**
- ▶ The bear **runs**
- ▶ The bear **sleeps**

top 52 verbs

ask				
be	find	let	play	talk
become	get	like	put	tell
begin	give	live	run	think
call	go	look	say	try
can	have	make	see	turn
come	hear	may	seem	use
could	help	mean	should	want
do	keep	might	show	will
feel	know	move	start	work
	leave	need	take	would

Linking Verbs

grammar

Verb - to be

am	I am here
is	she is here
are	you are here
being	thank you for being here
was	she was here
were	they were here
been	they have been here
be	can you be here

link

action - something does

am ... am eating
are ... are eating
was ... was eating

... been eating

to be - something is

is ... is hungry
be ... to be hungry
been ... been hungry
were ... were hungry

... being funny

Helping Verbs

Auxiliary verb

Verb - to be

To be

Brian **is** eating a pizza

(he is eating now)

Brian **was** eating a pizza

(he was eating before)

To have

Brian **has** eaten a pizza

(he has eaten the whole pizza)

Brian **had been** eating a pizza

(he was eating but has stopped)

level 1

Present Simple

(+ *Past & Future*)

Simple Exercises

time

past



now

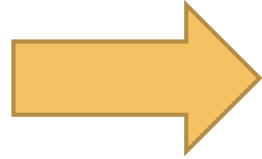


future

present

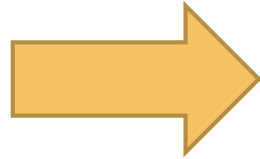
3 Verb tenses

past



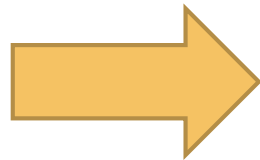
yesterday

present



today

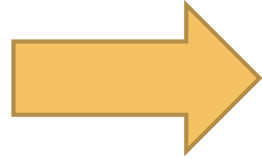
future



tomorrow

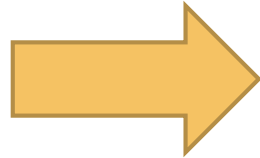
3 Verb tenses

simple past



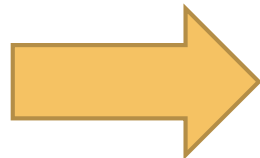
yesterday

simple present



today

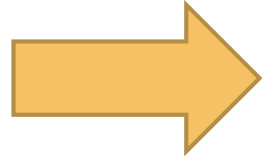
simple future



tomorrow

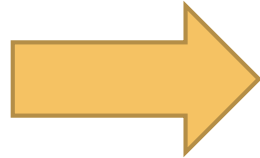
3 Verb tenses

simple past



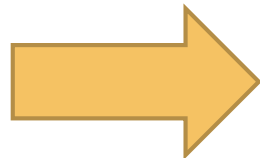
worked

simple present



work

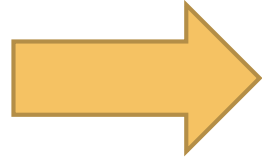
simple future



will work

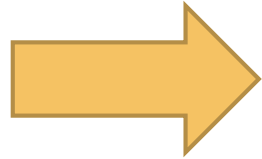
3 Verb tenses

simple past



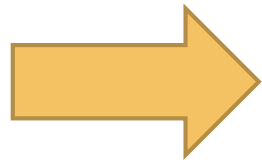
I **worked**
yesterday

simple present



I **work** today

simple future



I **will work** tomorrow

examples

past



present



future

I talked

I talk

I will talk

I liked

I like

I will like

I helped

I help

I will help

3 Verb tenses

simple past



simple
present



simple future



Simple

Present simple - game

- <https://www.gamestolearnenglish.com/present-simple/>

Present Continuous

(Past & Future)

Simple Exercises

Verb - action

Show action

- ▶ The bear **growls**
- ▶ The bear **runs**
- ▶ The bear **sleeps**

Continuous action

- ▶ The bear is **growling**
- ▶ The bear is **running**
- ▶ The bear is **sleeping**

present

simple present

- ▶ The bear **growls**
- ▶ The bear **runs**
- ▶ The bear **sleeps**

present continuous (-ing)

- ▶ The bear **is growling**
- ▶ The bear **is running**
- ▶ The bear **is sleeping**

past

-ed

- ▶ The bear growled
- ▶ I liked it
- ▶ We walked there

- I watched TV
- We wanted it
- They worked

opened / closed

other

- ▶ The bear ran
- ▶ The bear slept

- You studied
- I ate the apple

past

simple present

- The bear **growls**
- The bear **runs**
- The bear **sleeps**

present continuous (-ing)

- The bear is **growling**
- The bear is **running**
- The bear is **sleeping**

simple past

- The bear **growled**
- The bear **ran**
- The bear **slept**

past continuous (-ing)

- ▶ The bear was **growling**
- ▶ The bear was **running**
- ▶ The bear was **sleeping**

future

simple present

- The bear **growls**
- The bear **runs**
- The bear **sleeps**

present continuous (-ing)

- The bear is **growling**
- The bear is **running**
- The bear is **sleeping**

simple future

- ▶ The bear will **growl**
- ▶ The bear will **run**
- ▶ The bear will **sleep**

future continuous (-ing)

- ▶ The bear will be **growling**
- ▶ The bear will be **running**
- ▶ The bear will be **sleeping**

continuous -ing

present continuous (*is*)

The bear is **growling**

The bear is **running**

The bear is **sleeping**

past continuous (*was*)

The bear was **growling**

The bear was **running**

The bear was **sleeping**

future continuous (*will be*)

The bear will be **growling**

The bear will be **running**

The bear will be **sleeping**

1 We form the Present Continuous like this:

be + -ing FORM
<i>I am eating.</i>

Here are the forms of the Present Continuous:

POSITIVE

Full form

I am eating.

You are eating.

He/she/it is eating.

We are eating.

You are eating.

They are eating.

Short form

I'm eating.

You're eating.

He's eating.

We're eating.

You're eating.

They're eating.

NEGATIVE

Full form

I am not eating.

You are not eating.

He/she/it is not eating.

We are not eating.

You are not eating.

They are not eating.

Short form

I'm not eating.

You aren't eating.

He isn't eating.

We aren't eating.

You aren't eating.

They aren't eating.

2 To make the -ing form, we add -ing to the verb:

listen → listening	play → playing
work → working	read → reading

3 But notice these irregular spellings:

win → winning	get → getting
shop → shopping	sit → sitting
swim → swimming	travel → travelling
dance → dancing	write → writing
shine → shining	

(For more details on the spelling of the -ing form, see Table C, page 95.)

4 We use the Present Continuous:

► to talk about things that are happening now:

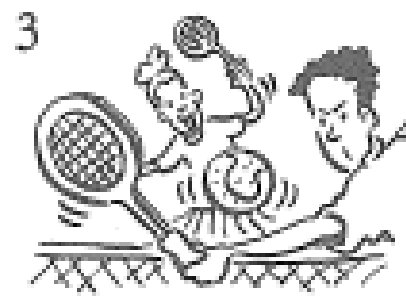


► to talk about things that are happening around now, but not exactly at the moment we speak:





exercise 1
write the verbs



Decide what is happening (✓) and what isn't happening (X) in each picture, and then write positive or negative sentences.

0 (George/eat/breakfast)

George isn't eating breakfast.

(George/sleep)

George is sleeping.

1 (They/work)

(They/ sit/ in the garden)

2 (I/study/music)

(I/learn/Japanese)

3 (He/play/tennis)

(She/win)

4 (We/spend/a day at the seaside)

(The sun/shine)



exercise 2
write the verbs

Finish the postcard using the words in brackets () in the Present Continuous.
Use full forms (e.g. *is sitting*).

Dear Peter,

Jenny and I ⁰ *are staying* _____ (stay) here for a week.

The sun ¹ _____ (shine) and it's very hot.

We ² _____ (sit) on the beach and I

³ _____ (drink) an orange juice.

We ⁴ _____ (not/swim) because we're

both tired. We ⁵ _____ (watch) the boats on

the sea at the moment. They ⁶ _____ (travel) fast,

but I can see fifteen or sixteen. Jenny ⁷ _____ (read)

her book, and I ⁸ _____ (write) all the postcards!

Jim and Jenny



7 Present Simple (I work) or Present Continuous (I'm working)

1 Compare the Present Simple and the Present Continuous:

Present Simple

We use the Present Simple to talk about 'regular' or 'usual' things:

She works in a school. She's a teacher.

Jane speaks French and Spanish.

I go to the cinema every week.



It rains a lot in March.



Usually, I play tennis.....

Joe: *What does Tom do?*

Sue: *He's a doctor.*

Present Continuous

We use the Present Continuous for things that are happening now ('temporary' things):

My brother is working in Paris this month.

Tom is speaking on the phone at the moment.

Pete: *Where are you going?*

Mary: *I'm going to the supermarket.*



It's raining now!



but today I'm playing golf.

Bill: *What's Tom doing this week?*

Sara: *He's skiing in Switzerland.*

2 We do not usually use these verbs in the Present Continuous:

like hate love want think (= believe)
know mean remember understand

Tom: *Do you like this book?* (Not *Are you liking this book?*)

Pam: *Yes, I think it's good.* (Not *Yes, I'm thinking it's good.*)



exercise 3
write the verbs

A Put the words in brackets in the Present Simple or Present Continuous.

0 Peter: What are you doing (you/do)?

1 John: I _____ (finish) my homework.

2 Steve: How _____ (your sister/travel) to work every day?

3 Mary: She _____ (take) the bus.

4 Paul: What _____ (you/eat)?

5 Jill: An apple. It's delicious! I _____ (love) apples.

6 Carlos: Look! It _____ (snow).

7 Hans: It _____ (snow) every year in my country.

8 Sheila: What _____ (Joanna/do)?

9 Bill: I _____ (think) she's an actress, but she
_____ (work) in a restaurant this month.

level 2

Past Simple

Pre-Intermediate Exercises

9 Be: Past Simple (I was, they were)

1 We form the Past Simple of **be** like this:

POSITIVE

Singular I was
You were
He/she/it was
Plural We/you/they were

NEGATIVE

	Full form	Short form
<i>Singular</i>	I was not	wasn't
	You were not	weren't
	He/she/it was not	wasn't
<i>Plural</i>	We/you/they were not	weren't

QUESTIONS

<i>Singular</i>	Was I	} right?
	Were you	
	Was he/she/it	
<i>Plural</i>	Were we/you/they	right?

Here are some examples with **was** and **were**:

I was in New York last week.
We were at home yesterday evening.
They weren't late this morning.
Was it a good film?

2 We use **was/were** when we are talking about the past. Look at these examples:

► **was/were** + facts about the past:

John F. Kennedy was an American president.

Our first house was in the centre of town.

A: *Were your answers correct?*

B: *No, they were all wrong!*

Paula wasn't the first person at the party.

► **was/were** + place and time:

	+ PLACE	+ TIME
<i>We were</i>	<i>in Spain</i>	<i>in June.</i>
<i>She wasn't</i>	<i>at home</i>	<i>last night.</i>

George and Joanna weren't in London at

the weekend. They were in Brighton.

Steve and Mary were here at six o'clock.

► **was/were** + adjective (e.g. **cold**, **tired**):

It was cold yesterday.

They were tired after the journey.

The train was late again this morning.

A: *Were your exams easy?*

B: *The first exam was easy, but the second one wasn't.*

exercise 1
write the verb
in past simple

5 Complete the text. Use the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

Ivan ¹ looked (look) at the clock. It ² _____ (be) eight o'clock, and he ³ _____ (be) late for work! He ⁴ _____ (have) a quick shower and ⁵ _____ (get) dressed. He ⁶ _____ (not have) breakfast and he ⁷ _____ (not watch) the TV news. He ⁸ _____ (leave) home and ⁹ _____ (hurry) to work. His bus ¹⁰ _____ (arrive), but there ¹¹ _____ (not be) many people on it, and the traffic ¹² _____ (not be) bad. When he ¹³ _____ (get off) the bus, he ¹⁴ _____ (buy) a newspaper. Then he ¹⁵ _____ (see) the date. It ¹⁶ _____ (not be) Monday. It ¹⁷ _____ (be) Sunday! His office was closed.

exercise 2
write the verb
in past simple

A Put these sentences into the past. Use the Past Simple.

TODAY

YESTERDAY

0 I'm at home.

I was at home.

1 Jane and Michael are tired.

2 She's in the park.

3 It's a sunny day.

4 You're late.

5 They aren't hungry.

6 We aren't at work.

7 I'm thirsty.

8 You aren't at school!

9 We're at the cinema.

10 Paula isn't happy.

11 Everyone is excited.

12 I'm not afraid.

exercise 3
write the verb
in past simple

b Change the sentences from the present to the past.

1 I'm late for work today.

I was late for work yesterday.

2 The weather isn't very good today.

_____ yesterday.

3 My friends are on holiday this week.

_____ last week.

4 They aren't at work today.

_____ yesterday.

5 Jorge is at a conference this week.

_____ last week.

6 A lot of people are on the bus today.

_____ yesterday.

exercise 4
write the Q & A
in past simple

6 Write questions about yesterday. Use the cues. Then give your own answers.

1 What / watch / on TV?

A *What did you watch on TV?*

B *I watched ...*

2 you / go out

A _____

B _____

3 What / have / for dinner?

A _____

B _____

4 send / any emails?

A _____

B _____

5 do / any housework?

A _____

B _____

(extra exercises)
write the sentences

15 Present Continuous for the future (He's working tomorrow)

- 1 Look at these examples:

I'm flying home tomorrow.

He's starting a new job on Monday.

Tony and Ann are coming at the weekend.

In each example, we are using the Present Continuous (see Units 5 and 6), but we are talking about the future, not the present.

- 2 Look at this example:

You bought a plane ticket **last week**.

You can now say:

I'm flying home next week.



We use the Present Continuous to talk about things we have arranged in the past to do in the future.

Here are some more examples:

A bank wrote to Steven and asked him to start work next week.

We can now say:

He's starting a new job next week.

John said to Tony and Ann:

Would you like to come for dinner on Sunday?

Tony and Ann said : Yes.

John now says:

Tony and Ann are coming on Sunday.

- 3 The important part of a Present Continuous for the future sentence is often a time or day (e.g. **next week, in July, tomorrow, on Sunday**):

PRESENT: *I'm leaving now.*

FUTURE: *I'm leaving tomorrow .*

PRESENT: *We're having a party at the moment. Can I phone you tomorrow?*

FUTURE: *We're having a party in July.*

- 4 We do not use the Present Continuous for future events that we cannot arrange or have not arranged:

Not ~~*The sun is shining tomorrow.*~~
(*The sun will shine...*)

Not ~~*The Irish team are winning next week.*~~
(*The Irish team will win next week.*)

A Look at the past events in brackets (), and then write sentences using the words in the box. Use short forms of the Present Continuous for the future.

I/fly/to Florida in August

I/go/to the doctor tomorrow

~~I/study/English in London in May~~

I/see/Mary this weekend

I/eat/in a new restaurant tonight

I/go/to a concert next Tuesday

0 (You paid for an English course in London yesterday.)

I'm studying English in London in May.

1 (You booked a table at a new restaurant last week.)

2 (You bought a ticket for a concert last month.)

3 (You telephoned your doctor this morning.)

4 (You paid for a holiday at a travel agent's last week.)

5 (You talked to Mary on the phone this morning.)

(extra exercises)
write the sentences

C Finish these dialogues using the Present Continuous for the future, and the words in brackets. Use short forms where possible.

0 Steve: Are you doing _____ (you/do) anything this weekend?

Lynn: I'm seeing _____ (I/see) a film on Sunday. Do you want to come?

1 Pete: Jane, Joe and Sally _____ (come) to my house on Friday night.

Mark: _____ (you/have) a party?

Pete: No, we aren't. _____ (We/play) cards. Would you like to come?

2 David: _____ (I/fly) to New York on Sunday.

Chris: _____ (you/see) John there?

David: Yes, _____ (we/meet) at the airport.

3 Philip: Mary and I _____ (drive) to Scotland next Wednesday.

Mike: _____ (you/stay) in Edinburgh?

Philip: No. _____ (we/visit) my mother in Aberdeen.

4 Paul: _____ (I/start) a new job on Monday.

Clive: Really? What is it?

Paul: _____ (I/sell) cars. Do you need a new car?

Thank you!
any questions?