

PRESENT TENSE



SIMPLE PRESENT

This tense is not used to talk about ongoing actions occurring in the present time; other present tense forms are used for that. Instead, the simple form is used:

- To express facts, general statements of truth, and common-sense ideas that everybody knows.
- To state habits, customs, and events that happen periodically.
- To describe future plans and events.
- To tell jokes, stories, and relate sporting events in real-time.

The tense can be combined with several expressions to indicate the time when an action occurs periodically, such as "every Tuesday", "always", "usually", "twice a month", etc... Additionally, this form can be made negative or can be used in the interrogative form as well. There is a lot of flexibility to this so-called simple tense to express complex ideas.

PRESENT PERFECT

The present perfect tense is used to describe an action that:

- Started in the past and ended in the past
- Started in the past and continues into the present time (but the future is indeterminate).

It is formed with a variant of the verb to have + the present participle (verb form ending in -ed).

The part that may confuse some readers is whether to use this present perfect verb tense (e.g. have walked) or to use the simple past (e.g. walked).



PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

This tense is used to describe an action that is ongoing at the current time. It is formed with a variant of the verb to be + the present participle (verb form ending in -ing). This verb form can also be used with time adverbs to talk about an activity that is continuing into some future time.

Additionally, present progressive verb forms are most commonly going to be found in the wild using dynamic verbs that describe:

- an activity (e.g. learn, listen, read)
- a process (e.g. change, grow, shrink)
- a bodily sensation (e.g. ache, feel, hurt)
- a transitional event (e.g. arrive, leave)
- a momentary occurrence (e.g. hit, jump, kick)

The other type of verb, which is not generally seen with present progressive verb forms, is known as stative, and the reason it is not used here is that stative verbs describe actions that are done and over with and do not continue into the future at all.

PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

The present perfect progressive tense is used to describe an action that:

- Started in the past and ended in the past BUT continues to have some relevant effect in the present.
- Started in the past and continues to happen now and into the future.

It is formed with a passive variant of the verb to have + the present participle (verb form ending in -ing).

Similarly to the present perfect tense, this verb form primarily occurs with dynamic verbs that describe an activity (e.g. learn, listen, read), a process (e.g. change, grow, shrink), a bodily sensation (e.g. ache, feel, hurt), a transitional event (e.g. arrive, leave), or a momentary occurrence (e.g. hit, jump, kick).

Stative verbs are not relevant to this tense.