**The Present Simple Tense *is used to denote:***

***1. Habitual or repeated actions in the so-called 'broad' present:***

***• regular activities and events typically with adverbials of frequency such***

*as* always, usually, generally, occasionally, frequently, sometimes, often, twice a year, once a week, every day, every other day, once in a while, from time to time, hardly ever, seldom, rarely, daily, monthly, *etc.*

*They* ***always go*** *out on Sundays. As* ***a rule,*** *she* ***has*** *three meals a day.*

***It doesn't often snow*** *in winter here.* ***We never come*** *late from work.*

***• permanent characteristics and properties, hobbies, habits and customs; attitudes, opinions and feelings.***

*As a hobby Ken* ***designs and makes*** *paper airliners.*

*British people* ***drink a lot*** *of tea.*

*Cycling* ***doesn't appeal*** *to me at all.*

*She paints fully for pleasure, not because she* ***wants*** *to make money out of it.*

***• universal truths and generalizations*** *(e.g., in proverbs and sayings, rules and common statements).*

*Summer follows spring. A drowning man* ***catches*** *at a straw. Extremes* ***meet.***

***• time-tables, itineraries, working hours.***

*The shop* ***opens at 9 a.m.*** *and* ***closes at 8p.m.***

*Classes* ***last*** *till 3p.m.*

***We arrive*** *in Portsmouth at 11 a.m. After a short lunch we* ***visit***

*St. John Cathedral. Around 3 we* ***have*** *dinner at a cafe and....*

***2. 'Immediate' present actions or states:***

***feelings, opinions with the so-called stative verbs*** *such as* like, know, see, agree, hear, believe, think, be, taste, understand, want, wish, prefer, own, realize, cost, depend, belong, *etc. (See the list of stative verbs in Supplement Tabie II).*

*My son* ***wants*** *a bike, but 1* ***don't think*** *he should have one.*

*Does the pie* ***taste*** *delicious ?*

***I believe*** *he still owes us quite a lot of money.*

***I disagree*** *with his words.*

***stage directions, sports commentaries, instructions, declarations, demonstrations.***

*Now* ***I peel*** *the apples,* ***slice*** *them and put into the bowl. (a recipe)*

*They* ***shake*** *hands and he* ***bids*** *her good-night. (a stage remark)*

*Becker serves to Lendle. (a sports commentary)*

***Note*** *that the Present Simple is often used instead of the Past Simple or Present Perfect to show a completed action in expressions like* **I hear, I see.**

**I hear** Sue is getting married.

I see there's been unrest in Belfast again.

*Notice also the expressions* **Here comes...** *and* **There goes**... *in which the verb in the Present Simple is used instead of the Present Continuous.*

*Look —* ***here*** *comes your mum.*

***There goes*** *our bus; we'll have to wait for the next.*

***3. Past activities:***

***• in summaries of historical events (the so-called 'historic present').***

*In May 1979 Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman Prime Minister in the history of Great Britain.*

***• plots of films, plays, books, etc.***

*The events go rapidly. Jean* ***meets*** *Paul and they fall in love with each other passionately.*

***• informal story-telling (jokes, anecdotes).***

*So this guy goes to the pub and* ***orders*** *two beers. At that moment the door* ***opens*** *and his wife* ***appears. s headlines.***

*People Say No to Terrorism.*

***4. Future activities:***

***in subordinate clauses of time and condition*** *after the conjunctions* when, after, before, as soon as, until, if, in case, unless, *etc1.*

*I'll phone you* ***as soon as I come*** *back home. If it* ***keeps on*** *raining we'll have to stay at home.*

***in schedules, time-tables, plans.***

*The flight leaves at 2p.m. tomorrow,*

***in suggestions, offers, invitations. Why don't you join*** *us? Why don't you* ***stay*** *with us for the weekend?*

***THE PAST SIMPLE (INDEFINITE) TENSE***

***The Past Simple*** *is formed by adding* -ed *to the stem for* ***regular verbs*** *or by changing the root vowel or in some other ways for* ***irregular verbs.*** *The form of the Past Simple is the same for all persons.*

***Spelling rules for regular and irregular verbs***

*1. When the verb ends in* -e; *only* -d *is added:* change — changed; dance *—* danced.

1. *When the verb ends in* -y *preceded by a consonant,* -y *is changed into* -ied *is added:* hurry — hurried, study — studied.
2. *When a one-syllable verb ends in a single consonant (except* c, w, z, y) *preceded by a short stressed vowel or if a verb ends in a stressed syllable* ***-er (-ur),*** *the final consonant is doubled and* -ed *is added:* stop — stopped; plan —planned; omit — omitted; occur— occurred, *but if the preceding vowel is long or unstressed (except* -er, -ur), *the final consonant remains single:* perform — performed, visit — visited.
3. *A final -****l*** *is always doubled in British English:* travel — travelled, quarel *—* quarelled.
4. *Verbs ending in* -c *add* -k *before* -ed: panic — panicked.
5. *Irregular past tense forms must be memorized because they are not related to simple forms in any predictable way. There are approximately 150 of them in all, and many of them are among the most frequently used words in the language* (See the list of irregular verbs in Supplement Table I):

***Main Uses***

***The Past Simple Tense*** *is used to denote:*

***I. A single event, fact or state of the past*** *(typically with adverbials of past time:* ago, last year, yesterday, the other day, in 1995, *etc.).*

***Last night*** *my neighbours* ***celebrated*** *their wedding*

*anniversary.*

*There* ***wasn't*** *any snow* ***last December.***

***I felt*** *very happy* ***In those days.***

*My elder brother John* ***got married 2 years ago.***

*The Past Simple can also be used with adverbials denoting a period of lime* (how long, for five у ears, *etc.). In such cases emphasis is laid on the liict of an action in the past, not its duration.*

*His English is so good. — No wonder. He* ***lived*** *in London*

***for 3 or 4 years*** *when his father worked in the embassy.*

**2. A succession of single past events, facts or states.**

***He got out*** *of bed,* ***opened*** *the window and* ***lay*** *down again. The dog picked up the bone and* ***carried*** *it away.*

**3. Repeated, habitual past actions or states.**

*Every week he* ***took*** *his girl out.*

*When I was a child I usually* ***went*** *to bed* ***at 9.***

When a habitual past action or state is in contrast with the present, *'used to + Infinitive'1* is used.

***We used to*** *keep in touch by letter (but we are not in touch now).*

***He used to*** *like comedies (but he doesn't now).*

***We didn't use*** *to go to concerts (but we do now).*

The construction *'would + Infinitive'is* also used to describe repeated past actions (but not states). It is more common for written language and often occurs in reminiscences.

*On Sundays, when I was a child, we* ***would get up*** *early and*

*go fishing.*

A habitual past action which is now finished can be expresed by 'would + Infinitive' in conversation too, when the speaker wants to convey the feeling of irritation, anger, etc.

***He would keep*** *telling me what to do!*

**4. Reported present-time actions** (according to the rules of Sequence of Tenses).

***Direct Speech Indirect (Reported) Speech***

1. *Kate said to me: 'I'm a first-year Kate told me she was student'. a fi rst-year student.*
2. *Jane asked:* ***'Do*** *you* ***have*** *dinner Jane wondered if I had*

*at home as a rule?' dinner at home as a rule.*

***THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS (PROGRESSIVE) TENSE***

***Spelling Rules of Participle I***

1. *The ending -ing is added to most verbs without changing the base form: wait — waiting, stand — standing.*
2. *If a verb ends in -e, this letter is omitted: use-using, manage-managing; but dye — dyeing.*
3. *If a verb ends in -ie these two letters change to -y: lie-lying, die-dying.*
4. *A final consonant is doubled if it is preceded by a short stressed vowel or if a verb ends in a stressed syllable -er (-ur)\ sit — sitting, stop — stopping, slim — slimming, occur— occurring, prefer—preferring. In an unstressed final syllable, however, there is no doubling the consonant: differ — differing.*
5. *A final -l is always doubled in British English: travel -— travelling, quarel — quarelling.*

*6. A final -y is preserved no matter what sound/letter it is preceded by: stay — staying, study — studying.*

*7. -ic changes into -ick: picnic-picnicking.*

***Main Uses***

*The Present Continuous (Progressive) Tense is used to denote:*

***1. Actions in progress:*** *happening at the present moment, i.e. at the time of speaking, which is either shown by an adverbial (at the moment, now, at present, just now, right now, etc.) or is made clear by the situation.*

*We are working with Brian at the moment, recording a new album.*

*The kettle is boiling. Can you turn it off, Mike? I don't know where we are going.*

*There can be two simultaneous (parallel) actions in progress, as, e.g., in complex sentences with the conjunctions while/when/as.*

*I'm writing this letter while the children are playing in the garden.*

*The present moment may imply a period of time during which the action is going on. The durative character of an action is expressed by the adverbial modifiers* all day (night, morning), the whole night (morning, evening), still.

*She is cooking the whole morning. It's raining all day. Don'(bother him. He is still sleeping.*

*Happening around the present moment, i.e. when the action does not coincide directly with the moment of speaking. In this case 'now' obviously has a broader sense.*

*David is collecting material for his new book now. She is looking for a job as a nanny in Liverpool now. She is working as a British Council Officer at the moment. What's Linda doing these days? — She is doing a course in engineering.*

*It must be stressed here that when the present moment is viewed as a broader period, the Present Continuous denotes a temporary action limited in its duration and contrasted to a permanent action associated with the Present Simple. Compare, e.g.:*

*Their married daughter is living in a rented house.*

*(temporarily — not generally)*

*His parents live in Bath, (permanent residence)*

*The typical adverbials with the Present Continuous for a temporary action are:* currently, these days, at the time.

*She is taking dancing classes currently.*

*Helen is seeing a lot more of them these days.*

***2. Actions or states having a dynamic character (changing and developing situations).***

*The climate is getting warmer.*

*His handwriting is improving.*

*Fitness is becoming a generally accepted principle of life. World energy demand is increasing at a rate of about 3% per year.*

***3. Actions of unusual frequency (with adverbials of permanence such as always,******constantly, never, again, etc.)*** *as contrasted to situations in which the frequent occurrence of an action is based on the accepted norms, regulations, etc., and is consequently expressed by the Present Simple. The Present Continuous for unusual frequency is used when the speaker wants to give an emotional colouring to his sentence:* criticism, annoyance, impatience or irritation.

*Mr Stone is always grumbling.*

*You are constantly looking for faults.*

*He is forever making comments about my weight.*

***4. Pre-arranged, planned or intended future actions.***

*I'm leaving at the end of the week.*

*Are you doing anything tomorrow afternoon ? — Yes, I'm playing tennis with Ann.*

*We aren 't going anywhere for Christmas. We are staying at home.*

*Note that the construction "to be going to do smth' is often used for the same purpose.*

*I'm going to explore the neighbourhood.*

***5. Background actions in informal story-telling (compare with the Present Simple in story-telling to express main events).***

*There's this Scotsman, you see, and he's walking through the jungle when he meets a gorilla. And the gorilla's eating a snake sandswich. So the Scotsman goes up to the gorilla and says....*

*It must be noted that stative verbs i.e. verbs with the meaning of physical/mental perception, are not used in the Continuous tense-form even when a state, feeling, attitude or opinion coincides with the moment of speaking.*

*Do you think there'll be any tickets left? I very much doubt it.*

*That soup smells delicious!*

*Do you know what I mean ?*

*I suppose I need a good sleep.*

*However, some of the stative verbs, such as look, feel, be often take the continuous form in conversational English today.*

*I'm feeling fine.*

*You are looking gorgeous in this dress!*

*You are being very naughty today.*

*Some verbs, particularly taste, smell, have, hear, see, look, etc., can be used as stative, i.e. denoting a state in some situations, and dynamic, denoting an event in other situations. Notice the difference in the meaning of the verb depending on it being used as stative or dynamic.*

*Event:*

*I am tasting the meat.(I am trying its flavour)*

*We are weighing the parcel. (We are finding out its weight)*

*She is looking at some old photographs. (She is examining the old photographs)*

*State:*

*The beefstake tastes awful! ( It has a bad flavour)*

*The parcel weighs ten kg. (It is )*

*Your hair looks great ( It appears)*

**THE PAST CONTINUOUS (PROGRESSIVE) TENSE**

**The Past Continuous Tense** is formed with the help of the auxiliary ***was/were*** and ***the Present Participle*** of the main verb.

**Main Uses**

**The Past Continuous (Progressive) Tense** is used to denote:

**1. Actions in progress at a definite moment1** in the past or during a definite period of time in the past.

What **were you doing** at 1 p.m. yesterday? — / **was having**

lunch with a friend.

She **was sitting** in the library from 2 till 4 yesterday.

She **was working** as a cleaner that summer.

Similar to the meaning of now in the Present Continuous Tense the definite moment in the Past may have a broader sense (not *at* but *about* a particular moment in the Past).Yet even in this broader sense the Past Continuous denotes *temporary actions or situations.* For longer, more permanent situations the Past Simple is used. Compare, e.g.: The roof was so old that during the rainy season water **was running down** the walls. Explorers believed the/ the river ran into the Atlantic.

The past moment or period can be either indicated by an adverbial phrase *(at 2p.m., at that time yesterday, from 2 till 5, all evening, the whole day, in the afternoon, between one and two,* etc.) or prompted by the context.

I looked out of the window. The sun **was shining** and the birds **were singing.**

An action in progress at a particular moment in the past can be j interrupted by a *shorter* action (a single event) expressed by the Past Simple. The *longer* background action (the Past Continuous) is then introduced by the conjunctions *when, while, as.*

**As/when/while** my dad **was painting** the ceiling he spilt some paint on the floor.

Note that *when* can be used with either the shorter or the longer action. John **arrived when I was cooking** supper. **When** John **arrived** I was cooking supper.

There can be situations with *two parallel, simultaneous* past actions in progress. In such cases both these actions are expressed by the Past Continuous or by the Past Simple or there is a combination of the Past Continuous with the Past Simple (or vice versa).

**While** John **was sitting** (sat) doing nothing, I **was working** out (worked out) apian to get us home.

When the actions are not simultaneous, i.e. when one action happened after the other, only the Past Simple is used for both the verbs. Compare, e.g.:

When the head-teacher **came, we were writing** a dictation.

(We were in the middle of writing)

When the teacher came, we **wrote** a dictation, (sequence of actions)

**2. Past actions of unusual frequency** to convey a feeling of annoyance, irritation, or criticism with adverbials of permanence like *always, constantly* (compare a similar use of the Present Continuous.)

In those days he was always **borrowing** money and forgetting to pay it back.

**3. Reported present-time actions in progress** (according to the rules of Sequence of Tenses).

***Direct Speech Indirect (Reported) Speech***

Ann ***asked: 'Is*** Jane ***talking*** Ann ***asked*** if Jane ***was talking***

on the telephone?' on the telephone?

**4. A polite request or suggestion** in the expressions of the type '/ *was wondering'* in situations referring to the present.

**I was wondering** if you'd like to come out with me one

evening.

Although the Past Continuous as well as the Present Continuous is not used with **stative verbs,** the continuous tense is possible when these verbs denote *a mental process.*

**He didn't understand** who they were talking about.

I picked up a cake and bit a piece off to see how it **tasted.**

When I looked out of the window I saw that we were flying

over the mountains.

**I was hoping** he would change his mind sooner or later

**The Present Perfect Tense**

The **present perfect**is formed from the present tense of the verb ***have*** and the **past participle** of a verb:

The present perfect **continuous**is formed with ***have/has been***and the ***-ing*** form of the verb:

**Use**

We use the present perfect tense:

* for something that started in the **past**and **continues**in the **present**:

They**’ve been married** for nearly fifty years.  
She **has lived** in Liverpool all her life.

**Note:** We normally use the present perfect continuous for this:

She **has been living** in Liverpool all her life.  
It**’s been raining** for hours.

* for something we have done **several times** in the **past** and **continue** to do:

I**’ve played** the guitar ever since I was a teenager.  
He **has written** three books and he is working on another one.  
I**’ve been watching** that programme every week.

We often use a clause with ***since***to show **when**something **started**in the past:

They**’ve been staying** with us since last week.  
I **have worked** here since I left school.  
I**’ve been watching** that programme every week since it started.

* when we are talking about our **experience up to the present**:

**Note**: We often use the adverb ***ever***to talk about experience up to the present:

My last birthday was the worst day I **have ever had**.

**Note**: and we use never for the negative form:

**Have you** **ever** **met** George?  
Yes, but **I’ve never met** his wife.

* for something that happened in the past but is important at the time of speaking:

I can’t get in the house. I**’ve lost** my keys.  
Teresa isn’t at home. I think **she has gone** shopping.  
I’m tired out. I**’ve been working** all day.

 We use the present perfect of ***be*** when someone has **gone**to a place and **returned**:

A: Where **have you been**?  
B: I’ve **just been out to the supermarket**.

A: **Have you ever been to**San Francisco?  
B: No, but **I’ve been** to Los Angeles.

But when someone **has not returned**we use ***have/has gone***:

A: Where is Maria? I haven’t seen her for weeks.  
B: **She's gone to**Paris for a week. She’ll be back tomorrow.

We often use the present perfect with **time adverbials**which refer to the **recent past**:

***just; only just; recently***;

Scientists **have recently discovered** a new breed of monkey.  
We **have just got** back from our holidays.

or adverbials which **include the present**:

***ever***(in questions); ***so far***; ***until now***; ***up to now***; ***yet*** (in questions and negatives)

**Have you**ever**seen** a ghost?  
**Where have you been** up to now?  
**Have you finished** your homework yet?  
No, so far I**’ve** only **done** my history.

**WARNING:**

We do **not**use the present perfect with an **adverbial**which refers to **past time** which is **finished**:

I have seen that film ~~yesterday~~.  
We have just bought a new car ~~last week~~.  
~~When we were children~~ we have been to California.

But we can use it to refer to a time which is **not**yet **finished**:

Have you seen Helen today?  
We have bought a new car this week.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

The present perfect continuous tense (also known as the present perfect progressive tense) shows that something started in the past and is continuing at the present time. The present perfect continuous is formed using the construction **has/have been + the present participle (root + -ing).**

I have been reading War and Peace for a month now.

In this sentence, using the present perfect continuous [verb tense](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/verb-tenses/) conveys that reading War and Peace is an activity that began sometime in the past and is not yet finished in the present (which is understandable in this case, given the length of Tolstoy’s weighty tome).

Recently and lately are words that we often find with verbs in the present perfect continuous tense.

Mia has been competing in flute competitions recently. (And she will continue to do so.)

I haven’t been feeling well lately. (And I am still sick now.)

Have you seen my wallet and keys recently? (Because I sure don’t know where they are.)

Of course, not all verbs are compatible with continuous action. Some examples of such verbs are to be, to arrive, and to own.