

Introducing Tenses

There are **16** active tenses in English

On the next slide there's a list of the active tenses

Maybe we should add another **16** passive tenses!!

But we'll only look at 6 today!

6 common tenses

Tense	Simple	Continuous
Present	I ride a bicycle	I am riding a bicycle
Past	I rode a bicycle	I was riding a bicycle
Future	I will ride a bicycle / I am going to ride a bicycle	I will be riding a bicycle / I am going to be riding a bicycle

Present

Describes something that happens usually or regularly; but each time it happens it will stop

- I sing in the shower
- She sends 50 WhatsApp messages every day
- He likes pork with his wonton soup

Present Continuous

Describes an action that is happening now *and may continue*

Use [**am / is / are**] followed by the verb you need, but with an “**ing**” at the end (a “present participle”).

- I am writing a book
- She is eating her breakfast
- We are practising our English

Past

Describes something that happened in the past and which has stopped (or which is no longer important)

- She looked beautiful
- It rained all day.
- I wrote a book
- Fung went to school in Hong Kong

Past Continuous

Describes an action that began in the past and was continuing. Often it is used when one activity is interrupted by another activity in the past

Use [**was/ were** or sometimes **kept**] followed by the verb but with an “**ing**” added at the end (a “present participle”).

- [*When the phone rang*] I was sleeping
- We were practising for our concert
- He kept cooking on the barbecue, even though it was raining
- I was learning my English verbs when the postman called

Future

Describes an action that will begin and be completed in the future

- She is going to visit 7 European countries while on holiday
- I will learn my verbs tomorrow
- It will be a difficult few weeks after Bob has his operation

Future Continuous

Describes an action that will begin in the future and then continue.

There are two methods:

- Use [**am/is/are**] followed by “**going to be**” followed by the verb but with an “**ing**” added at the end (a “present participle”).
- Use “**will be**” followed by the verb but with an “**ing**” added at the end (a “present participle”).

- I will be gardening all this afternoon
- When the electricity is reconnected, we are going to be watching Netflix 24/7
- It will be comforting to cuddle the kitten
- I am going to be singing in the choir

Tense	Simple	Continuous
Present	verb	to be + present participle
Past	past tense of verb	past tense of "to be" + present participle
Future	"will" + verb -- or --	"will be " + present participle -- or --
	"am/are/is" + "going to" + verb	"am/are/is" + "going to be " + present participle