Your Name & Class: _____

Tenses in English
forms, main uses and signal words

PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE

SIMPLE

PRESENT SIMPLE	PAST SIMPLE	FUTURE SIMPLE
● *Affirmative:* S + V (+s/es/ies) ● *Negative:* S + do/does + not + V ● *Interrogative:* Do/Does + S + V ?	● *Affirmative:* Regular verbs: S + V + d/ed/ied ● *Negative:* S + did + not + V ● *Interrogative:* Did + S + V ?	● *Affirmative:* S + will + V ● *Negative:* S + will + not + V ● *Interrogative:* Will + S + V ?
► with facts (general truths.) ► with repeated acts. (routine.) ■ every day/usually/always/when/…	► finished act. in the past. ► series of finished acts. in the past. ■ yesterday/last week/a month ago/…	► to predict future events. ► to express a decision, offer or promise. ■ tomorrow/soon/next year/someday/…

CONTINUOUS

PRESENT CONTINUOUS	PAST CONTINUOUS	FUTURE CONTINUOUS
● *Affirmative:* S + am/is/are + V + ing ● *Negative:* S + am/is/are + not + V + ing ● *Interrogative:* Am/Is/Are + S + V + ing ?	● *Affirmative:* S + was/were + V + ing ● *Negative:* S + was/were + not + V + ing ● *Interrogative:* Was/Were + S + V + ing ?	● *Affirmative:* S + will + be + V + ing ● *Negative:* S + will + not + be + V + ing ● *Interrogative:* Will + S + be + V + ing ?
► act. in progress right now. ► future plan or intention. ■ now/right now/at the moment/…	► two or more parallel past acts. ► continuous (interrupted) past act. ■ while(+past cont.)/when(+past smpl.)	► act. that'll be happening at some point. ► future expectations or predictions. ■ this time next week/still/at 7 tomorrow/…

PERFECT SIMPLE

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE	PAST PERFECT SIMPLE	FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE
● *Affirmative:* S + have/has + past participle ● *Negative:* S + have/has + not + past participle ● *Interrogative:* Have/Has + S + past participle ?	● *Affirmative:* S + had + past participle ● *Negative:* S + had + not + past participle ● *Interrogative:* Had + S + past participle ?	● *Affirmative:* S + will + have + past participle ● *Negative:* S + will + not + have + past participle ● *Interrogative:* Will + S + have + past participle ?
► act. that finished in the very recent past. ► finished act. in an unfinished period. ■ already/for/since/just/ever/never/yet/…	► past act.1 finished before past act.2. ► with "wish" for regrets/unreal events. ■ by the time/by(+time)/before/after/when/…	► act.1 will finish in future before act.2. ► act. will finish in future before a certain point. ■ by the time/by(+time)/before/when/till/until/…

PERFECT CONTINUOUS

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS	PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS	FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS
● *Affirmative:* S + have/has + been + V + ing ● *Negative:* S + have/has + not + been + V + ing ● *Interrogative:* Have/Has + S + been + V + ing ?	● *Affirmative:* S + had + been + V + ing ● *Negative:* S + had + not + been + V + ing ● *Interrogative:* Had + S + been + V + ing ?	● *Affirmative:* S + will + have + been + V + ing ● *Negative:* S + will + not + have + been + V + ing ● *Interrogative:* Will + S + have + been + V + ing ?
► past act. that continues in present. ► repeated acts. that happened lately. ■ since/for/all day/every day/recently/…	► act. continued to a point in the past. ► to show the cause of a past effect. ■ before/after/for/since/when/because/…	► act. will continue to a point in the future. ► to show the cause of a future effect. ■ by the time/by(+time)/before/when/for/till/until/…

Legend	●=the tense forms / ►=common uses / ■=common signal words / S=Subject / V=Verb / **act.**=action / **acts.**=actions
Common Contractions	I am=**I'm** / is=**'s** / are=**'re** / is not=**isn't** / are not=**aren't** / was not=**wasn't** / were not=**weren't** / do not=**don't** / does not=**doesn't** / did not=**didn't** / have=**'ve** / has=**'s** / have not=**haven't** / has not=**hasn't** / will=**'ll** / will not=**won't**

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