

Past Perfect

BEFORE YESTERDAY
Past action finished before another past action

Subject+HAD+Participle

*I had just finished my homework by 5 o'clock yesterday.
I had just got into the classroom, when the bell rang.*

Past Simple

YESTERDAY
Unique past action at a given time

Subject+Verb in Past (-ed /or irregular)

*I went to the opera last night.
I saw him in a restaurant last week.*

Present Perfect

BEFORE NOW
Undefined past action with present result

Subject+HAVE/HAS +Participle

*He has just phoned.
I have been to the theatre this week.
Have you seen the exhibition? It's still open.*

Present Simple

NOW GENERALLY
Facts/Habits/Routines

Subject + Infinitive(-s)

*I usually watch TV in the evening.
The Earth moves around the Sun.*

**Future Perfect
-rare use-

BEFORE TOMORROW
Future action that will have been completed before a future time.

Subject+ WILL HAVE +Participle

*He will have finished the book by Monday.
He will have worked here for 30 years, when she retires.*

Future Simple

TOMORROW
Future planned action
Subject+WILL/SHALL
We will go to a nice restaurant tomorrow.
-OR-

BE ABOUT TO+INF
-immediate future
I am about to leave.

BE TO +INF
-arrangement/order
You are to return at 9.

GOING TO
-future planned actions/or predictions
I'm going to visit Ann this evening. Look at those clouds. It's going to rain.

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

BEFORE AND AT/DURING A MOMENT YESTERDAY
Past action begun before another past action and continuing until that one

Subject+HAD BEEN+ING

*I had been waiting for him since 2, when he finally arrived.
They had been playing football all morning (it is noon and they are still playing.)*

YESTERDAY AT A MOMENT
Action in progress at a definite past time

Subject+Was/Were+ING

*I was walking at this time last week.
She was eating while I was washing yesterday.
He came in while I was eating.*

BEFORE AND AT/DURING THE MOMENT
Undefined past action that continues up to now

Subject+HAVE BEEN + ..ING

*I have been reading for 3 hours (and I am still reading)
I have been doing my homework since 5 (and still doing)*

NOW AT THE MOMENT
Action in progress

Subject+BE+...ING

*Listen. He is singing in the bathroom.
I never read while I am walking in the garden. (repeated action in progress)
He is doing his homework now.*

BEFORE AND AT/DURING A MOMENT TOMORROW
Future action in progress happening before a future action/moment

Subject+WILL HAVE BEEN+ING

When the bell rings, we will have been writing for 50 minutes.

TOMORROW AT/DURING A MOMENT
Action in progress at a future moment

Subject+WILL BE+ING

*I shall/will be walking at noon tomorrow..
She will be walking while I am sleeping.*

Past Perfect Continuous

Past Continuous

Present Perfect Continuous

Present Continuous

**Future Perfect Continuous
-rare use-

Future Continuous