

Table of English Tenses

tense	Affirmative/Negative/Question	Use	Signal Words
<u>Simple Present</u>	<p>A: He speaks.</p> <p>N: He does not speak.</p> <p>Q: Does he speak?</p>	<p>action in the present taking place once, never or several times</p> <p>facts</p> <p>actions taking place one after another</p> <p>action set by a timetable or schedule</p>	<p>always, every ..., never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually</p> <p>if</p> <p>sentences type I (<i>If I talk, ...</i>)</p>

<p><u>Present Progressive</u></p>	<p>A: He is speaking. N: He is not speaking. Q: Is he speaking?</p>	<p>action taking place in the moment of speaking action taking place only for a limited period of time action arranged for the future</p>	<p>at the moment, just, just now, Listen!, Look!, now, right now</p>
<p><u>Simple Past</u></p>	<p>A: He spoke. N: He did not speak. Q: Did he speak?</p>	<p>action in the past taking place once, never or several times actions taking</p>	<p>yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday</p>

		place one after another action taking place in the middle of another action	if sentence type II (<i>If I talked, ...</i>)
<u>Past Progressive</u>	<p>A: He was speaking.</p> <p>N: He was not speaking.</p> <p>Q: Was he speaking?</p>	<p>action going on at a certain time in the past</p> <p>actions taking place at the same time</p> <p>action in the past that is interrupted by another action</p>	when, while, as long as

Present
Perfect
Simple

A: He has spoken.
N: He has not spoken.
Q: Has he spoken?

putting
emphasis on
the **result**
action that is
still going on
action that
stopped
recently
finished
action that has
an influence
on the present
action that has
taken place
once, never or
several times
before the

already,
ever, just,
never, not
yet, so far,
till now, up
to now

		moment of speaking	
<u>Present Perfect Progressive</u>	<p>A: He has been speaking.</p> <p>N: He has not been speaking.</p> <p>Q: Has he been speaking?</p>	<p>putting emphasis on the course or duration (not the result)</p> <p>action that recently stopped or is still going on</p> <p>finished action that influenced the present</p>	<p>all day, for 4 years, since 1993, how long?, the whole week</p>
<u>Past Perfect Simple</u>	<p>A: He had spoken.</p> <p>N: He had not spoken.</p>	<p>action taking place before a</p>	<p>already, just, never,</p>

	<p>Q: Had he spoken?</p>	<p>certain time in the past sometimes interchangeable with past perfect progressive putting emphasis only on the fact (not the duration)</p>	<p>not yet, once, until that day if sentence type III (<i>If I had talked, ...</i>)</p>
<p><u>Past Perfect Progressive</u></p>	<p>A: He had been speaking. N: He had not been speaking. Q: Had he been speaking?</p>	<p>action taking place before a certain time in the past sometimes</p>	<p>for, since, the whole day, all day</p>

		interchangeable with past perfect simple putting emphasis on the duration or course of an action	
<u>Future I Simple</u>	A: He will speak. N: He will not speak. Q: Will he speak?	action in the future that cannot be influenced spontaneous decision assumption with regard to the future	in a year, next ..., tomorrow If-Satz Typ I (<i>If you ask her, she will help you.</i>) <i>assumption</i>

			: I think, probably, we might ..., perhaps
<u>Future I Simple</u> (going to)	A: He is going to speak. N: He is not going to speak. Q: Is he going to speak?	decision made for the future conclusion with regard to the future	in one year, next week, tomorrow
<u>Future I Progressive</u>	A: He will be speaking. N: He will not be speaking. Q: Will he be speaking?	action that is going on at a certain time in the future action that is sure to	in one year, next week, tomorrow

		happen in the near future	
<u>Future II Simple</u>	<p>A: He will have spoken.</p> <p>N: He will not have spoken.</p> <p>Q: Will he have spoken?</p>	action that will be finished at a certain time in the future	by Monday, in a week
<u>Future II Progressive</u>	<p>A: He will have been speaking.</p> <p>N: He will not have been speaking.</p> <p>Q: Will he have been speaking?</p>	action taking place before a certain time in the future putting emphasis on the course of an action	for ..., the last couple of hours, all day long
<u>Conditional I</u>	A: He would speak.	action that	if

<p><u>Simple</u></p>	<p>N: He would not speak. Q: Would he speak?</p>	<p>might take place</p>	<p>sentences type II <i>(If I were you, I would go home.)</i></p>
<p><u>Conditional I Progressive</u></p>	<p>A: He would be speaking. N: He would not be speaking. Q: Would he be speaking?</p>	<p>action that might take place putting emphasis on the course / duration of the action</p>	
<p><u>Conditional II Simple</u></p>	<p>A: He would have spoken. N: He would not have spoken.</p>	<p>action that might have taken place in</p>	<p>if sentences type III</p>

	Q: Would he have spoken?	the past	<i>(If I had seen that, I would have helped.)</i>
<u>Conditional</u> <u>II</u> <u>Progressive</u>	A: He would have been speaking. N: He would not have been speaking. Q: Would he have been speaking?	action that might have taken place in the past puts emphasis on the course / duration of the action	