

Verb tense survival kit

For the very basics in verb tenses for busy professionals

- Simple Present vs Present Progressive
- Simple past (preterite)
- Present perfect
- Future(s)



Simple Present	Uses	Key words
	 Habits General truths, things that are always true Things that are permanent 	 always, usually, sometimes, never, every day/week/month, each time Stative verbs
Positive sentences:Subject + base formImage: the section in the section is th	 Habits He works Monday through Friday. We usually have meetings on Monday. I check my email first thing in the morning. 	 General truths/permanent She is the project manager. The company sells products. We offer quality services.
Negative sentences I/You/We/They + don't + base form He/she/it doesn't + base form Subject + am/is/are + not	 I don't work on Wednesdays. Meeting don't always finish on time. She doesn't usually attend conferences. 	 We don't know yet. It doesn't matter. Meetings aren't always productive.
Questions Do/does + subject + base form Am/Are/ls + subject	 Do you ever have meetings on Fridays? Does the supplier usually call you? Is she always late? 	Do you know each other? Does he know about the issue? Are you in charge of the project?
Present progressive	Uses	Key words
X - action started	 Actions ongoing at the time of speaking Actions that are ongoing, but not necessarily at the time of speaking Things that are temporary 	 at the moment, now, right now, currently, today, these days This week/month/year
	 Actions ongoing at the time of speaking Actions that are ongoing, but not necessarily at the time of speaking 	these days
X-action started Positive sentences:	 Actions ongoing at the time of speaking Actions that are ongoing, but not necessarily at the time of speaking Things that are temporary Ongoing at the time of speaking He is talking to the manager at the moment Right now I'm writing the report. 	 these days This week/month/year Ongoing, but not at the time of speaking The project is going well. We are recruiting a new team member.



Simple past (preterite)	Uses	Key words
× ×	 Actions finished in the past, at a particular time, or in a precise context Can answer the question "when" 	 ago, yesterday, last week/month/year the last time/meeting, during, when, over the weekend/summeryear
 Positive sentences: Active voice: Subject + past form Passive voice: Subject + was/were + past form 	 Active voice I worked yesterday We received the documents two weeks ago. They made the decision at the last meeting. The company launched a new product last month. 	 Passive voice Yesterday's presentation was given to a large audience. The results of the marketing survey were sent last week. The plant was built a long time ago.
 Negative sentences Active voice: Subject + did + not + base form Passive voice: Subject + was/were + not + past form 	 We didn't have time to discuss everything yesterday. I didn't go to the meeting. I didn't see you at the conference last month. 	 Marketing wasn't our priority before this year. The documents weren't sent
 Questions Active voice: did + subject + base form Passive voice: was/were + subject + past form 	 Did you find what you were looking for? Did your team go to the conference last month? Did you do anything interesting over the weekend? 	 Were the deadlines met? Were there any issues last week? Was it hard to find our offices?



? Present Perfect	Use 1	Key words
X >	 Actions finished in the past, but no mention of time Actions that have not happened Cannot answer the question "when" Focus on the action 	 used in positive sentences: never, already used in questions and negative sentences: yet only used in negative sentences: still only used in questions: ever
Positive sentences: Subject + have/has + past participle	Active voice I have finished. I have already finished. (sooner than expected We have received the documents. 	 Passive voice A new molecule has been discovered. The results have been analyzed.
Negative sentences Subject + have/has + not + past participle	 I haven't finished yet. I still haven't finished (longer than expected) I have never seen such a great presentation. 	• The new process has been validated.
Questions Have + subject + (adverb) +past participle	Have you finished writing the minutes yet?Have you ever been to Boston?	• Has anything been done to solve the problem?
	Use 2	Key words
? XXXX		• so far, until now, many times, how many times?
	Active voice I have sent two messages so far How many meetings have we had this week? We haven't had many problems so far. 	 Passive voice Their team of scientists has made many discoveries. How many feedback surveys have been sent out?
	Use 3	Key words
	 Action that began in the past and continues to the present, with for or since Focus on "how long", "since when" 	 for + duration since + precise time (day, date, year, last + time
	 We have been here for two days. We have been here since Monday. Have you been here for long? 	l have worked at the company for 10 years. l haven't seen Jane since last week.



Future(s)	Will	Present simple, present continuous
<x td="" →<=""><td> Predictions or a general fact Spontaneous decision about the future made at the time of speaking "will" is not a verb, but an auxiliary </td><td> Planned in the near future: present continuous Planned in a more distant future: be going to Travel/schedules/timetables: present simple </td></x>	 Predictions or a general fact Spontaneous decision about the future made at the time of speaking "will" is not a verb, but an auxiliary 	 Planned in the near future: present continuous Planned in a more distant future: be going to Travel/schedules/timetables: present simple
 Positive sentences subject + will + verb (base form) subject + am/is/are + verb + ing 	 According to the forecast, it will be sunny tomorrow. There will be time to answer questions after the presentation. It's a sunny day, so I think I'll go for a walk. 	 I'm seeing friends after work today. We are going to start the study next month. The train leaves at 10:20.
 Negative sentences Subject + will not/won't + verb (base form) Subject + am/is/are + not + verb + ing Subject + do/does + not + verb (base form) 	 According to the forecast, it will not be sunny tomorrow. We won't have much time for questions at the end of the meeting so you can send your questions by email. I won't go for a walk today because it's raining. 	 I'm not going out this evening. I need to rest. We aren't going to start the study until next month. The train doesn't leave until 10:20.
Questions Will + subject + verb (base form) Am/is/are + subject + verb + ing Do/does + subject + verb (base form) 	 Will it be sunny tomorrow? Will there be time for questions after the presentation? Will you come for a walk with me? 	 Are you attending the meeting this afternoon? Are you going to start the study next month? Does the train leave at 10:20?