

# TENSES

## **Present Perfect**

(*have* or *has* + **past participle**)

The present perfect tense expresses an action that began in the past and has recently been completed or is continuing in the present.

The city has just agreed on a contract with the sanitation workers.  
Tony's parents have lived in that house for twenty years.  
Lola has watched *Star Trek* reruns since she was a little girl

## **Past Perfect**

(*had* + **past participle**)

The past perfect tense expresses a past action that was completed before another past action.

Lola had learned to dance by the time she was five.  
The class had just started when the fire bell rang.  
Bad weather had never been a problem on our vacations until last year.

## **Present Progressive**

(*am, is, or are* + **the —ing form**)

The present progressive tense expresses an action still in progress.

I am taking an early train into the city every day this week.  
Karl is playing softball over at the field.  
The vegetables are growing rapidly.

## **Past Progressive**

(*was or were* + **the —ing form**)

The past progressive expresses an action that was in progress in the past.

I was spending twenty dollars a week on cigarettes before I quit.  
Last week, the store was selling many items at half price.  
My friends were driving over to pick me up when the accident occurred.

**TENSES**

**EXAMPLES**

***Present***

Jill *works*.  
I *work*.

***Past***

Howard *worked* on the lawn.

***Future***

You *will work* overtime this week.

***Present perfect***

Gail *has worked* hard on the puzzle.  
They *have worked* well together.

***Past perfect***

They *had worked* eight hours before their shift ended.

***Future perfect***

The volunteers *will have worked* many unpaid hours.

***Present progressive***

*I am* not working today.  
You *are working* the second shift.  
The clothes dryer is *not working* properly.

***Past progressive***

She *was working* outside.  
The plumbers were *working* here this morning.

***Future progressive***

The sound system *will be working* by tonight.

***Present perfect progressive***

Married life has not *been working* out for that couple.

***Past perfect progressive***

I *had been working* overtime until recently.

***Future perfect progressive***

My sister *will have been working* at that store for eleven straight months by the time she takes a vacation next week.

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***Perfect tenses*** = *have, has, or had* + the past participle (verb form ending usually in *—ed*)  
***Progressive*** = *am, is, are, was or were* + present participle (verb form ending in *—ing*)  
***Perfect Progressive*** = *have been or had been* + present participle.