


The Most Important Tenses of English

This presentation is going to discuss the most important tenses of the English language. When you understand them, you will be able to communicate in almost every situation.



There are **three** times. Each tense describes an action in one of the times. The times are: **past**, **present**, future.

The tenses for the times are:

past

Past Simple

Past Continuous

Present Perfect

Past Perfect

present

Present Simple


Present Continuous

future

to be going to

Present Continuous

Future Simple



We are going to start discussing the tenses from
the present time.

The present time

The Present Simple

- Use it to talk about actions which *always* happen (repetitive actions)

→ I always have breakfast at 7 a.m.

The Present Continuous

- Use it to talk about actions which are happening *now* (one-time actions)

→ I'm writing the presentation now.

The Present Simple

There are **three** verbs which we are going to use and make example sentences in the Present Simple tense:

1. The verb 'to be'
2. The verb 'to work'
3. The modal verb 'can'

The Present Simple

the verb 'to be'

positive sentences

Singular

I am. **I'm.**

You are. **You're.**

He is. **He's.**

She is. **She's.**

It is. **It's.**

Plural

We are. **We're.**

You are. **You're.**

They are. **They're.**

The Present Simple

the verb 'to be'

negative sentences

Singular

I am not. **I'm not.**

You are not. **You aren't.**

He is not. **He isn't.**

She is not. **She isn't.**

It is not. **It isn't.**

Plural

We are not. **We aren't.**

You are not. **You aren't.**

They are not. **They aren't.**

The Present Simple

the verb 'to be'

questions and short answers

Singular

Am I? Yes, I am. / No, I'm not.

Are you? Yes, you are. / No, you aren't.

Is he? Yes, he is. / No, he isn't.

Is she? Yes, she is. / No, she isn't.

Is it? Yes, it is. / No, it isn't.

Plural

Are we? Yes, we are. / No, we aren't.

Are you? Yes, you are. / No, you aren't.

Are they? Yes, they are. / No, they aren't.



The verb 'to be' is the **most important** verb in English!

The Present Simple

the verb 'to work'

positive sentences

Singular

I work.

You work.

He works.

She works.

It works.

Plural

We work.

You work.

They work.

The Present Simple

the verb 'to work'

negative sentences

Singular

I do not (**don't**) work.

You do not (**don't**) work.

He **does** not (**doesn't**) work.

She **does** not (**doesn't**)
work.

It **does** not (**doesn't**) work.

Plural

We do not (**don't**) work.

You do not (**don't**) work.

They do not (**don't**) work.

The Present Simple

the verb 'to work'

questions and short answers

Singular

Do I work? Yes, I do. / No, I don't.

Do you work? Yes, you do. / No, you don't.

Does he work? Yes, he does. / No, he doesn't.

Does she work? Yes, she does. / No, she doesn't.

Does it work? Yes, it does. / No, it doesn't.

Plural

Do we work? Yes, we do. / No, we don't.

Do you work? Yes, you do. / No, you don't.

Do they work? Yes, they do. / No, they don't.

The verb 'to work' gives you the general rule of making sentences in the **Present Simple** tense.

You can use almost any other verb instead of 'to work' and make correct sentences.

However, the verb 'to be' and modal verbs are different.

The Present Simple

the modal verb 'can'

positive sentences

Singular

I can swim.

You can swim.

He can swim.

She can swim.

It can swim.

Plural

We can swim.

You can swim.

They can swim.

The Present Simple

the modal verb 'can'

negative sentences

Singular

I cannot (can't) swim.

You cannot (can't) swim.

He cannot (can't) swim.

She cannot (can't) swim.

It cannot (can't) swim.

Plural

We cannot (can't) swim.

You cannot (can't) swim.

They cannot (can't) swim.

The Present Simple

the modal verb 'can'

questions and short answers

Singular

Can I swim? Yes, I can. / No, I can't.

Can you swim? Yes, you can. / No, you can't.

Can he swim? Yes, he can. / No, he can't.

Can she swim? Yes, she can. / No, she can't.


Can it swim? Yes, it can. / No, it can't.

Plural

Can we swim? Yes, we can. / No, we can't.

Can you swim? Yes, you can. / No, you can't.

Can they swim? Yes, they can. / No, they can't.



Generally, we use the modal verb '**can**' with an action verb, for example '**swim**'.

→ I can swim.



Don't say:

→ I can to swim.

Say:

→ I can swim.

The Present Continuous

the verb in the Present Continuous tense has two parts:

to be _____ and _____ Present Participle
(verb with -ing ending)

here you decide if the sentence is positive, negative or if it is a question

here you decide on the activity

→ I am writing.

The Present Continuous

positive sentences

Singular

I am writing. **I'm writing.**

You are writing. **You're writing.**

He is writing. **He's writing.**

She is writing. **She's writing.**

It is writing. **It's writing.**

Plural

We are writing. **We're writing.**

You are writing. **You're writing.**

They are writing. **They're writing.**

The Present Continuous

negative sentences

Singular

I am not writing. **I'm not writing.**

You are not writing. **You aren't writing.**

He is not writing. **He isn't writing.**

She is not writing. **She isn't writing.**

It is not writing. **It isn't writing.**

Plural

We are not writing. **We aren't writing.**

You are not writing. **You aren't writing.**

They are not writing. **They aren't writing.**

The Present Continuous

questions and short answers

Singular

Am I writing? Yes, I am. /
No, I'm not.

Are you writing? Yes, you
are. / No, you aren't.

Is he writing? Yes, he is. /
No, he isn't.

Is she writing? Yes, she is. /
No, she isn't.

Is it writing? Yes, it is. / No,
it isn't.

Plural

Are we writing? Yes, we
are. / No, we aren't.

Are you writing? Yes, you
are. / No, you aren't.

Are they writing? Yes, they
are. / No, they aren't.



End of part 1

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