OVERVIEW OF TENSES



SIMPLE TENSES

- 1. **SIMPLE PRESENT** (general information)
- Pronunciation: /s/, /z/, extra syllable /iz/
- Happens every day, week, etc. Used with: *always, often, usually, sometimes, rarely, never.*
- Historical present: To tell a story about a past event as if it were happening right now.

Q: Do you (ever) drink coffee?

A: Yes, I <u>do</u>. (Yes, I <u>always</u> drink coffee.) No, I <u>don't</u>. (No, I don't drink coffee.

I <u>never</u> drink coffee.)

Q: Does Scott drink tea?

A: Yes, he <u>does</u>. (Yes, he drinks tea.)

No, he doesn't. (No, he doesn't drink tea.)

2. **SIMPLE PAST** (completed action)

• Pronunciation: /t/, /d/, extra syllable /id/, irregular forms

Q: <u>Did</u> you <u>walk</u> to the store?

A: Yes, I <u>did</u>. (Yes, I walk<u>ed</u> to the store.) — *regular* No, I didn't. (No, I didn't walk to the store.)

Q: <u>Did</u> you <u>buy</u> doughnuts?

A: Yes, I <u>did</u>. (Yes, I <u>bought</u> doughnuts.) — *irregular* No, I <u>didn't</u>. (No, I didn't buy any doughnuts.)

3. **SIMPLE** <u>FUTURE</u> (future plans or making predictions) Impromptu — thought about at time of speaking

Q: <u>Will</u> you <u>see</u> Lisa tomorrow?
A: Yes, I <u>will</u>. (Yes, I'll see her.)
No, I <u>won't</u>. (No, I won't see her.)

Scheduled — planned or talked about earlier

Q: Are you going to see Tom later?
A: Yes, I am. (Yes, I'm going to see him.)
No, I'm not. (No, I'm not going to see him.)

PROGRESSIVE (or continuous) TENSES

1. **PRESENT PROGRESSIVE** (now and continuing)

Q: <u>Are you studying right now?</u>
A: Yes, I <u>am</u>. (Yes, I'm studying.)
No, <u>I'm not</u>. (No, I'm not studying.)

2. **PAST PROGRESSIVE** (might be finished, might not be)

Q: Were you watching a movie?

A: Yes, I <u>was</u>. (Yes, I was watching a movie.) No, I <u>wasn't</u>. (No, I wasn't watching a movie.)

3. **FUTURE PROGRESSIVE** (To politely ask about someone's plans, especially when you need a favor.)

Q: <u>Will</u> you <u>be making</u> copies of your proposal?
A: Yes, I <u>will be</u>. (Yes, I'll be making copies.)
B: No, I <u>won't be</u>. (No, I won't be making copies.)

PERFECT TENSES

action time reference

1. PRESENT PERFECT (up to this time)

- Action continues into the present, or just completed.
- Unfinished time period (e.g., today, your life, etc.)
- For how long (a period) or since what time (a point)
- Used with: *already* (= before this), *yet* (= at and up to this moment)

Q1: <u>Have</u> you (ever) <u>been</u> to Hawaii (in your lifetime)?

Q2: <u>Have</u> you <u>washed</u> your car <u>yet</u>?

A: Yes, I have. (Yes, I've <u>already</u> washed my car.)
No, I haven't. (No, I haven't washed my car yet.)

2. PAST PERFECT

(happened before another event in the past)

Q: <u>Had</u> the meeting <u>already</u> <u>begun</u> when you arrived?

A: Yes, it <u>had</u>. (Yes, it had <u>already</u> begun.) No, it <u>hadn't</u>. (No, it hadn't begun <u>yet.</u>)

3. **FUTURE PERFECT**

(happening before another event in the future)

Q: <u>Will you have finished</u> the report before you leave for Los Angeles?

A: Yes, I will have.

(Yes, I'll have finished the report.)

No, I won't have.

(No, I won't have finished the report.)

PERFECT PROGRESSIVE TENSES

- Emphasis on *continuing* action
- For how long (a period of time)
- Since what time (a point in time)

1. PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

Q: How long <u>have</u> you <u>been reading</u>?
 A: <u>I've been reading for</u> two hours now. I've been reading *since* one o'clock.

2. PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

<u>I'd been cooking for a while</u> when the doorbell rang. " awhile when the doorbell rang.

3. FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

I'll have been hiking for half the day by dinner tonight.

	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
to be	was/were	am/is/are	will be
to have	had	have/has	will have