

# UNIT 1a Grammar: Tenses

## PRESENT

Present Simple	Present Continuous	Present Perfect	Present Perfect Continuous
habitual actions or permanent states <i>He goes swimming every day.</i> <i>She works in a bank.</i>	repeated actions with <b>always, forever, constantly</b> (often to show annoyance) <i>You're always leaving the cap off the toothpaste.</i>	recently completed actions <i>She has just painted her room.</i>	past actions producing visible results in the present <i>She has been painting her room. (It smells of paint.)</i>
arranged future actions (timetables, programmes, etc) <i>The match begins at 8:30 next Monday evening.</i>	actions in progress/temporary actions <i>He's sleeping at the moment.</i> <i>They're hunting for a flat.</i>	actions beginning in the past and continuing up to the present, focusing on the result <i>He has written three books.</i>	an action beginning in the past and continuing up to the present, focusing on the action especially with <b>for</b> or <b>since</b> <i>She has been waiting for two hours but there's still no sign of him.</i>
laws of nature/scientific facts and instructions <i>Ice melts when heated.</i> <i>First you chop the meat, then you fry it.</i>	fixed arrangements for the near future <i>They are going on an excursion tomorrow.</i>	indefinite past actions or experiences <i>She has seen this film. (We do not know when.)</i> <i>I've been to Berlin twice.</i>	action showing annoyance, irritation or surprise <i>What have you been doing to my computer?</i>
dramatic narration <i>The lights go out and a figure tears out of the villa.</i>	current trends and developments <i>Oil prices are rising at present.</i>	repeated actions still continuing <i>He has worked as a teacher for four years. (He is still a teacher.)</i>	
<b>Time Expressions:</b> <i>usually, often, always, every day, in the morning, on Mondays etc</i>	<b>Time Expressions:</b> <i>now, at present, at the moment, these days, still, today, tonight, nowadays etc</i>	<b>Time Expressions:</b> <i>since, yet, for, already, just, ever, so far, recently, lately, still, how long etc</i>	<b>Time Expressions:</b> <i>for, since, how long, lately, recently etc</i>

**Stative verbs** describe a state and do not have continuous forms. These include verbs related to:

<b>senses</b>	see, hear, smell, feel, taste
<b>thinking</b>	think, agree, believe, consider, doubt, feel (= think) etc
<b>emotion &amp; feeling</b>	forgive, hate, loathe, like, dislike, love, mind, wish etc
<b>other</b>	appear/seem, be, belong, have (= possess), keep (= continue), matter, owe, possess/own etc

### Notes

- Verbs of the senses can have continuous forms, but then there's a change in meaning.  
*I'm seeing my dentist tomorrow. (= a prior arrangement) BUT Do you see those birds? (ability to see)*
- The verbs **think**, **consider** and **expect** can have continuous forms when they refer to an activity.  
*Be quiet, please! I'm thinking. BUT I think you are wrong. (= I believe)*
- Have** can have continuous forms in certain expressions such as: **have a bath, have a nap, have fun, have a good time** etc.  
*We were having a good time at the party when the fire broke out.*  
**BUT** *Since you have his phone number, you can call him. (= possess)*

## 1 Put the verbs in brackets into the appropriate present tense.

- 0 Our firm *is launching* (launch) two new products next week.
- 1 "Why ..... (he/leave)?"  
"Because he ..... (play) football at 6:30 this evening."
- 2 Dancers at the ballet school ..... (rehearse) for the performance since last November.
- 3 You ..... (not/really/think) I'll eat this stew! It ..... (smell) awful!
- 4 I ..... (try) to complete that jigsaw for over three months now!
- 5 "Why ..... (you/feel) Annie's forehead?"  
"I ..... (think) she's got a temperature."
- 6 The place looks like a bombsite! What ..... (do) all day?
- 7 Come on John! You ..... (know) me since high school! You ..... (not/really/believe) I would do such a terrible thing.
- 8 The opposition party ..... (appear) to be making ground in the opinion polls.
- 9 Randall ..... (kick) the ball into the net and it ..... (be) a goal!

## HAS BEEN TO / HAS BEEN IN / HAS GONE TO

He **has been** to Berlin.

(= He has gone and come back.)

He **has been** in Buenos Aires for

a year. (= He lives there.)

He **has gone** to Toledo.

(= He hasn't come back yet.)

2 Fill in the blanks with *have been to*, *have been in* or *have gone to* in their correct form.

- 0 I *have been to* Cambodia three times.
- 1 Mrs Bates ..... Cologne.  
She won't be back for at least three weeks.
- 2 Nick ..... Wales  
for three years now, studying for his degree.
- 3 Why don't you ask Clare about the tropics?  
She ..... Thailand.
- 4 He ..... visit  
his father. I'm afraid you've just missed him.

## 3 Put the verbs in brackets into the Present Simple or Present Continuous.

Terry Poole 0) *is* (be) an engineer who 1) ..... (work) for an international aid organisation. Although he normally 2) ..... (work) in Indonesia, at present he 3) ..... (supervise) a project in Rwanda which 4) ..... (involve) the co-ordination of local people, aid workers and engineers like himself. Although he 5) ..... (enjoy) the experience, he 6) ..... (doubt) the project will be finished soon.

## 4 Put the verbs in brackets into the Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous.

Stonehenge 0) *has been* (be) the subject of archaeological debate for many years. No one 1) ..... (yet/explain) satisfactorily why or how it was built, although teams of experts 2) ..... (excavate) the site for years and a team of American scientists 3) ..... (recently/start) working in the area with sophisticated new equipment. Popular theories 4) ..... (suggest) that Stonehenge was built as a temple, but no one 5) ..... (manage) to work out how the stones were transported there. A group of students from Bangor University 6) ..... (discuss) the possibility of re-enacting the journey from Wales, where such stones are to be found, overland to Stonehenge, and sponsors 7) ..... (come) forward with offers of financial assistance. The British Museum 8) ..... (also/announce) a forthcoming exhibition of artefacts from the Stonehenge period, which they 9) ..... (gather) over the last five years from all over Northern Europe.