

simple tenses

In English, the **simple tenses** are the basic building blocks for talking about time. They are the most common ways to talk about actions or states in the **present**, **past**, and **future**.

Here is a simple, comprehensive guide to the Simple Present, Simple Past, and Simple Future tenses.

1. Simple Present Tense

What it does: The Simple Present is used to talk about things that are generally true, habits, and things that happen regularly.

Forming the Simple Present:

- **For the subjects I, You, We, They:** Use the base form of the verb.
 - I *walk* to school.
 - They *like* to swim.
- **For the subjects He, She, It (Third-person singular):** Add **-s** or **-es** to the base form of the verb.
 - She *walks* to school.
 - He *likes* to swim.

Common Uses:

- **Habits & Routines:** "I **brush** my teeth every morning." "We **watch** TV on Friday nights."
- **General Facts & Truths:** "The sun **rises** in the east." "Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius."
- **Scheduled Events (in the near future):** "The train **leaves** at 9:00 AM tomorrow." "Our class **starts** next week."
- **Feelings & Opinions:** "She **loves** her cat." "I **think** it is a good idea."

Signal Words: often, always, usually, sometimes, every day/week, on Mondays.

2. Simple Past Tense

What it does: The Simple Past is used to talk about actions or states that were completed in the past. It's the standard way to recount an event or tell a story.

Forming the Simple Past:

- **For Regular Verbs:** Add **-ed** to the base form of the verb.
 - I **walked** to school.

- They **liked** to swim.
- **For Irregular Verbs:** These don't follow a pattern. You must memorize their forms.
- (go -> went) He **went** to the store.
- (see -> saw) We **saw** a movie.
- (eat -> ate) I **ate** an apple.

Common Uses:

- **Single, Completed Actions in the Past:** "She **finished** her homework."
"The show **started** five minutes ago."
- **A Series of Completed Actions:** "First, he **woke up**. Then, he **brushed** his teeth."
- **Past Habits (now finished):** "When I was a kid, I **played** soccer." (Now I don't).

Signal Words: yesterday, last week/month/year, two days ago, in 2010.

3. Simple Future Tense

What it does: The Simple Future is used to talk about actions or events that have not happened yet. It can express a promise, a prediction, or a decision made at the moment of speaking.

Forming the Simple Future:

There are two main ways to form the simple future:

Option 1: WILL + Base Verb (for all subjects)

- I **will walk** to school.
- She **will eat** the apple.
- We **will visit** our grandparents.

Option 2: BE GOING TO + Base Verb (This is often used for plans and intentions)

- I **am going to walk** to school.
- She **is going to eat** the apple.
- We **are going to visit** our grandparents.

Common Uses:

- **Predictions:** "I think it **will rain** tomorrow." "They **are going to win** the game."

- **Plans and Intentions:** "I **am going to study** this weekend." "We **will move** to a new house next year."
- **Promises & Offers:** "I **will help** you with your homework." "I **will call** you later."
- **Decisions Made at the Moment (for 'will'):** "The phone is ringing. I **will answer** it!"

Signal Words: tomorrow, next week/month, in the future, soon.

Tense	Form	Example	Main Use
Simple Present	Verb (+s/es for he/she/it)	"He <i>plays</i> soccer."	Habits, facts, general truths.
Simple Past	Verb + -ed (or irregular form)	"He <i>played</i> soccer."	Completed action in the past.
Simple Future	Will + Verb / Be going to + Verb	"He <i>will play</i> soccer." / "He <i>is going to play</i> soccer."	Something that will happen after now.