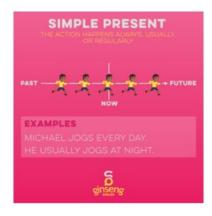
English Verb Tenses

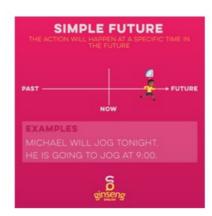
Verbs are one of the most powerful parts of speech to learn in English. Verbs show the action in a sentence. One thing that is challenging about learning English verbs is that every verb in English has a tense and an aspect. *Verb tense* tells us the general time frame that we are talking about. *Verb aspect* basically tells us the status of the verb in relation to the time frame: Is it still happening? Is it complete? The three verb tenses and four verb aspects combine to make 12 total verb forms. This article is a good starting point for understanding the English verb system.

Simple Verb Tenses

The three simple tenses are the **simple present**, **simple past**, and **simple future**. Verbs in simple tenses make up about 85% of spoken English. Simple tenses show actions and states at a point in time, but they aren't always specific.



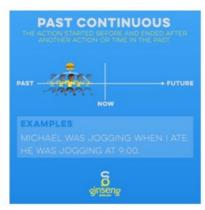




Continuous Verb Tenses

We the continuous aspect (also called *progressive aspect*) to show that an action is in progress at a specific time. The action starts before and finishes after that specific time. The three continuous verb tenses are the **present continuous**, the **past continuous**, and the **future continuous**.



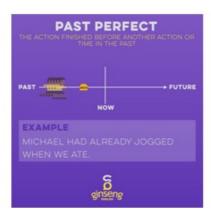




Perfect Verb Tenses

Perfect verb forms are generally used to show that an action is complete before another action or a point in time. The three perfect tenses are **present perfect**, **past perfect**, and **future perfect**.







Perfect Continuous Verb Tenses

Generally, perfect continuous verbs show that an action or situation in progress just before, and until another time or action. Often we use the perfect continuous tenses to show how long the perfect continuous action happened for (its duration). As Anna Ananichuk nicely puts it, "the perfect progressive describes the completed part of a continuous action." The three perfect continuous tenses are **present perfect continuous**, **past perfect continuous**, and **future perfect continuous**.







Passive Verb Forms

The passive voice is used to emphasize the receiver of the action, rather than the doer of the action. There are many reasons we choose to do this in English. Any of the 12 verb tenses can be transformed into the passive voice.