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# Tenses Level 1 (Beginner)

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## *Present (play/plays, go/goes)*

### Signal Words

- every day
- sometimes
- always
- often
- usually
- seldom
- never
- first...then

### Use

- something happens repeatedly
- how often something happens
- one action follows another
- things in general
- with verbs like (to love, to hate, to think, etc.)
- future meaning: timetables, programs

### Examples:

- I play
  - She plays
  - I go
  - He goes
-

## ***Present Progressive (am/is/are playing, am/is/are going)***

### **Signal Words**

- now
- at the moment
- Look!
- Listen!

### **Use**

- something is happening at the same time of speaking (right now)
- future meaning: when you have already decided and arranged to do it (a fixed plan, date)

### **Examples:**

- He is walking to the park (right now).
- They are climbing the mountain (right now).
- They are playing soccer tomorrow. (future)

### **Present vs. Present Progressive**

- Can always use present tense
    - He walks/is walking to the park.
    - They climb/are climbing the mountain.
  - Cannot always use present Progressive tense
    - He (~~is walking~~/walks) to the park everyday.
- 

## ***Imperative (play!, go!)***

### **Use**

- Tell someone or something to do something

### **Examples:**

- Eat at the table! (Mom tells son to eat at the table)
- Stop playing! (Teacher tells student to stop playing)

Note: usually, no subject is included, but it is ok to do so:

- Eat at the table, son! (Mom tells son to eat at the table)
- Stop playing, Miguel! (Teacher tells student to stop playing)

## Tenses Level 2 (Early Intermediate)

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### ***Past (played, went)***

#### **Signal Words**

- Last...
- ...ago
- in 1990
- yesterday

#### **Use**

- action took place in the past. mostly connected with an expression of time (no connection to the present)
- 

### ***Future (will play, will go) (contractions #####)***

#### **Use**

- predictions about the future (you think that something will happen)
- you decide to do something spontaneously at the time of speaking
- Auxiliary “will” for predictions and statements of facts. (often coupled with a future timeframe, i.e. tomorrow, next week, In a year.

#### **Examples:**

- I will leave tomorrow.
- She will leave next year.

### **Present Tense (with implied future)**

#### **Use**

- Similar to present Progressive for arranged events:

#### **Examples:**

- I leave tomorrow.
  - She leaves next year.
-

## **Future (going to play, going to go) (contractions)#####**

### **Use**

- when you have already decided to do something in the future
- what you think what will happen
- Auxiliary “going to” for intentions or plans. Differentiate that intentions are something you want to do, but are not 100% facts.

### **Examples:**

- I am going to leave tomorrow.
- She is going to leave tomorrow.

## **Present Progressive for arranged events in the future**

### **Use**

- These are facts too, and have almost the exact meaning of using will. This tense is more conversational than will.

### **Examples:**

- I am leaving tomorrow.
- She is leaving next year.

## Tenses Level 3 (Intermediate)

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### *Past Progressive (was/were playing, was/were going)*

#### Signal Words

- While
- when

#### Use

- an action happened in the middle of another action
- someone was doing something at a certain time (in the past)
- you don't know whether it was finished or not
- An action has been happening and continues to happen at a specific point in past time, sometimes referenced by a signal word like when or while.

#### Examples:

- He was eating spaghetti when the phone rang.
- She was running when she fell and hurt herself.

#### Contrast past with past Progressive

#### Examples:

- He was eating spaghetti when the phone rang.
- He ate spaghetti when the phone rang.
- She was running when she fell and hurt herself.
- She ran when she fell and hurt herself.

#### Past Progressive practice

- What were you doing at that time?
  - Were you studying yesterday?
  - Why not? (I was watching TV)
  - Where were you yesterday at 10:00?
  - Watch people at shopping center
  - They were buying stuff
  - Show picture
    - Ask questions "what was happening?"
-

## Modals

- can/could.....play/go
  - shall/should....play/go
  - will/would.....play/go
  - may/might.....play/go
  - must.....play/go
- 

## ***Present Perfect (has/have played, has/have gone)***

### Signal Words

- Just
- yet
- never
- ever
- already
- so far
- up to now
- since
- for
- recently

### Use

- you say that something has happened or is finished in the past and it has a connection to the present
- action started in the past and continues up to the present

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***Note: Many students plateau here.***

***It takes about the same time to do levels 4 and 5 as to do levels 1-3.***

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## Tenses Level 4 (Early Advanced)

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### ***Future Progressive (will be playing, will be going)***

#### **Use**

- An action will be in progress at a certain time in the future.
- This action has begun before the certain time.
- Something happens because it normally happens.

#### **Future Progressive practice:**

- what will you be doing tomorrow (I will be playing soccer)
  - what will it do tomorrow (it will be raining)
  - I will be going to school (doing it now)
- 

### ***Past Perfect (had played, had gone)***

#### **Signal Words**

- already
- just
- never

#### **Use**

- mostly when two actions in a story are related to each other: the action which had already happened is put into Past Perfect. the other action into Past
  - the past of the Present Perfect
- 

### ***Future Perfect (will have played, will have gone)***

#### **Use**

- Something will already have happened before a certain time in the future

## Tenses Level 5 (Advanced)

### ***Present Perfect Progressive (has/have been playing, has/have been going)***

#### **Signal Words**

- all day
- the whole day
- how long
- since
- for

#### **Use**

- action began in the past and has just stopped
  - how long the action has been happening
  
  - emphasis: length of time of an action
- 

### ***Past Perfect Progressive (had been playing, had been going)***

#### **Signal Words**

- how long
- since
- for

#### **Use**

- how long something had been happening before something else happened
- 

### ***Future Perfect Progressive (will have been playing, will have been going)***

#### **Use**

- Something will already have happened before a certain time in the future
  
  - emphasis: length of time of an action
-

## ***Conditional/Subjunctive\*\* (would play, would go)***

### **Uses (Real situations)**

- something that might happen

### **Examples:**

- We will go to the restaurant if they leave work on time.
  - “if” indicates uncertainty in the future
  - The first event in the sentence relies on the “if” happening.
- He will go to the restaurant when his girlfriend leaves work.
  - “when” indicates an event that must happen before the first event happens.

### **Uses (Unreal/imaginary situations - many auxiliary verbs)**

- “if” clauses, but with past tense plus would (I don't have the money).
- Action is not present or future.

### **Examples:**

- If I had a million dollars, I would move to an island.
  - If I ate a lighter lunch, I would not have a stomach ache.
  - If I had eaten a lighter lunch, I would not have had a stomach ache.
- 

## ***Conditional Progressive (would be playing, would be going)***

### **Use**

- Something that might happen
  - emphasis: length of time of an action
- 

## ***Conditional Perfect (would have played, would have gone)***

### **Use**

- Something that might have happened in the past
-

## ***Conditional Perfect Progressive (would have been playing, would have been going)***

### **Use**

- something that might have been happening in the past
  - emphasis: length of time of an action
- 

### ***Passive (was played by)***

Note: passive doesn't work for verb "go" (~~was gone by~~)

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### ***Present Perfect [Passive in subjunctive mood] (would have been played by)***

Note: passive doesn't work for verb "go" (~~would have been gone by~~)

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#####

***add: If I had had a book, I would have read it.***

***add: (add question, negative)***

***add: contractions***

***add: what were you doing yesterday (I was playing soccer)***