

Time, Aspect and Tense:

- English has three different **times**: present, past, and future.
- E.g.
They **eat** their food everyday.
They **ate** their food yesterday.
They **will eat** their food tomorrow.
- **Aspect** is a grammatical category that is associated with verbs. The aspect of a verb is determined by whether the action is **on-going** or **completed**. Aspect is often indicated by the use of auxiliary verbs. Certain auxiliaries are used to indicate that the action is on-going while others including 'have' may signal a completion of the action. There are 3 main aspects:
 1. Simple
 2. Progressive/Continuous
 - Shows that action is/was in progress/on-going.
 - This type of aspect is indicated by the auxiliary “be” and the present participle form (verb + ing).
 3. Perfect
 - Shows that the action is/was completed.
 - This type of aspect is indicated by the auxiliary “have” and the past participle form (verb + en).
- **Tense** = Time + Aspect

Simple Tense:

	Past	Present	Future
Expression	Expresses past time.	For habits and repeated actions. For general truth.	Refers to a time later than now and expresses facts and certainty. To predict a future event. Decision at the time speaking (spontaneous decision). To express willingness. Note: The future tense is made up of “will/shall” + verb.
Example	He <u>lived</u> in China last year.	I <u>live</u> in Canada.	I <u>will live</u> in Canada.

Progressive/Continuous Tense:

- Shows that action is/was in progress/on-going.
- Is formed with the auxiliary “be” and the present participle form (verb + ing).

	Past	Present	Future
Expression	We use the past progressive tense to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted by another action. The second action is usually a shorter action in the simple past.	Mainly used to express an on-going action or state in the present time.	One of the uses of the future progressive tense is to indicate an on-going action at a specific time in the future.
Formation	was/were + Present Participle	am/is/are + Present Participle	will/shall + be + Present Participle
Example	They <u>were watching</u> TV when their mom called. While we <u>were having</u> the picnic, it started to rain.	He <u>is leaving</u> now. The students <u>are taking</u> their test now.	Next Thursday, I <u>will be working</u> in my new job.

Perfect:

- Shows that an action has been completed.

	Past	Present	Future
Expression	The past perfect tense mainly expresses the idea that an action happened before another action in the past. It can also show that something occurred before a specific time in the past.	We use the present perfect tense to show that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important. This can be an action that was completed in the immediate past or one that began in the past and continued to the present.	The future perfect tense expresses the idea that an action will be completed before another action in future. It can also show that something will happen before a specific time in the future.
Formation	had + Past Participle	has/have + Past Participle	will + have + Past Participle
Example	I <u>had read</u> so many books I can't keep count.	I <u>have read</u> at least 100 books by the time I was twelve.	I <u>will have read</u> at least 500 books by the end of the year.

Summary:

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	verb + ed	verb	will/shall + verb
Progressive/ Continuous	was/were + present participle	am/is/are + present participle	will/shall + be + present participle
Perfect	had + past participle	has/have + past participle	will/shall + have + past participle

Examples:

- List the tense of the underlined word(s) in the sentences below:
 - I was washing the dishes when you called.
Was washing → past progressive
Called → Simple past
 - We had eaten dinner before the children got here.
Had eaten → Past perfect
Got → Simple past
 - Why were you complaining?
Were complaining → Past progressive

- d. I will have learned every tense by the time I finish school.
Will have learned → Future perfect
Finish → Simple present
2. Change the sentence "She lies on the beach" to its future perfect tense form.
Answer: She will have lain on the beach.
3. Change the sentence "He lies to his mother" to its past perfect tense.
Answer: He has lied to his mother.