

12 Tenses in English

Tense	Positive	Negative	Question
Present Simple	She eats breakfast.	She does not eat breakfast.	Does she eat breakfast?
Present Continuous	She is eating breakfast.	She is not eating breakfast.	Is she eating breakfast?
Present Perfect	She has eaten breakfast.	She has not eaten breakfast.	Has she eaten breakfast?
Present Perfect Continuous	She has been eating breakfast.	She has not been eating breakfast.	Has she been eating breakfast?
Past Simple	She ate breakfast.	She did not eat breakfast.	Did she eat breakfast?
Past Continuous	She was eating breakfast.	She was not eating breakfast.	Was she eating breakfast?
Past Perfect	She had eaten breakfast.	She had not eaten breakfast.	Had she eaten breakfast?
Past Perfect Continuous	She had been eating breakfast.	She had not been eating breakfast.	Had she been eating breakfast?
Future Simple	She will eat breakfast.	She will not eat breakfast.	Will she eat breakfast?
Future Continuous	She will be eating breakfast.	She will not be eating breakfast.	Will she be eating breakfast?
Future Perfect	She will have eaten breakfast.	She will not have eaten breakfast.	Will she have eaten breakfast?
Future Perfect Continuous	She will have been eating breakfast.	She won't have been eating breakfast.	Will she have been eating breakfast?

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS

Base Form	Past Tense	Past Participle
be	was, were	been
beat	beat	beaten or beat
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
bet	bet	bet
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
burn	burned	burned
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
dive	dived or dove	dived
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamed or dreamt	dreamed or dreamt
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
fly	flew	flown,
forbid	forbade or forbad	forbidden or forbade
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	gotten or got

Base Form	Past Tense	Past Participle
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown
hang	hung or hanged	hung or hanged
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt or kneeled	knelt or kneeled
know	knew	known
lay (put)	laid	laid
lead	led	led
leap	leapt or leaped	leapt or leaped
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie (down)	lay	lain
light	lit or lighted	lit or lighted
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
prove	proved	proved or proven
put	put	put
quit	quit	quit
read	read	read
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
saw (cut)	sawed	sawed or sawn
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set
sew	sewed	sewn or sewed
shake	shook	shaken
shave	shaved	shaved or shaven
shine	shone or shined	shone or shined
shoot	shot	shot

Base Form	Past Tense	Past Participle
show	showed	shown or showed
shrink	shrank or shrunk	shrunk or shrunken
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
sneak	sneaked or snuck	sneaked or snuck
speak	spoke	spoken
speed	sped	sped
spend	spent	spent
spill	spilled or spilt	spilled or spilt
spin	spun	spun
spit	spat or spit	spat or spit
split	split	split
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
stink	stank or stunk	stunk
strike	struck	struck or stricken
swear	swore	sworn
sweep	swept	swept
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
throw	threw	thrown
undergo	underwent	undergone
understand	understood	understood
upset	upset	upset
wake	woke or waked	woken or waked
wear	wore	worn
weave	wove	woven
weep	wept	wept
win	won	won
wind	wound	wound
write	wrote	written

NARRATIVE TENSES

Tenses	Form	Use	EXAMPLES
Past simple	verb + -ed (regular) / 2nd form (irregular)	Describes completed actions in the past.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She went to the market and bought some fruit.
Past continuous	was/were + verb + -ing	Describes actions in progress at a specific time in the past.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was reading a book when I arrived.
Past perfect	had + past participle	Describes an action that happened before another action in the past.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had already finished dinner before I arrived.
Past perfect continuous	had been + verb + -ing	Describes an action that was happening over time before another past action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had been waiting for an hour before the bus arrived.

Conditionals

CONDITION

+

RESULT

ZERO conditional

If you stand in the rain, you get wet.
If you heat ice, it melts.

PRESENT SIMPLE

+

PRESENT SIMPLE

USES: *Facts which are generally true or scientific facts.
The condition always has the same result.*

FIRST conditional

If it rains, we will cancel the trip.
If you study, you will pass the exam.

PRESENT SIMPLE

+

WILL / WON'T + VERB

USES: *A possible situation in the future.
Predicting a likely result in the future (if the condition happens).*

SECOND conditional

If I won the lottery, I would travel a lot.
If they sold their house, they would be rich.

PAST SIMPLE

+

WOULD + VERB

USES: *Hypothetical or unlikely situations.
Unreal or improbable situation now or in the future.*

THIRD conditional

If you had studied, you would have passed the exam.
If I hadn't been sick, I would have gone to your party.

PAST PERFECT

+

WOULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

USES: *The person is imagining a different past.
Imaginary situation that did not happen in the past.*

Grammar Time!



Important:

When we use the second conditional, we use *I* with *were*.

Examples:

- If I were rich, I would donate a lot of money to charity.
- If I were president, I would focus on climate change.

	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB
What it modifies	Nouns and pronouns	Verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs
Typical function	Answers " what kind " or " which one "	Answers " how ," " when ," " where ," or " to what extent "
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "She is a quick runner." (modifies "runner") - "He is a careless person." (modifies "person") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "He ran quickly." (modifies "ran") - "He talks carelessly." (modifies "talks")
Common ending	Does not have a common ending	Often ends in " -ly " (e.g., quickly, carefully, beautifully)

CONNECTORS

SEQUENCING

First of all/Firstly
Secondly
Next
Then
Finally

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Because
So
Therefore
Consequently
For this reason

COMPARING

Similarly
In the same way
Equally
Like

ADDING

And
Also
Moreover
Additionally
As well as
Too
Furthermore

CONTRASTING

Whereas
While
On the other hand
Instead of
Though
Otherwise

EMPHASIZING

Especially
Indeed
Above all
In particular
Significantly

QUALIFYING

But
However
If
Unless
As long as
Although
Apart from

ILLUSTRATING

For example
For instance
Such as
In the case of

PUNCTUATION MARKS

Period

The period (.) is used to indicate the end of a declarative sentence.

Comma

Used to separate items in a list, set off introductory phrases, and create pauses.

Colon

Introduces a list, explanation, or example.

Semicolon

Connects two closely related independent clauses.

Dash

Used for emphasis, interruption, or to set off information.

Question Mark

The question mark (?) is a punctuation mark used to indicate that a sentence is a question.

Exclamation

The exclamation mark (!) is a punctuation mark used to convey strong emotion, emphasis, surprise, or exclamatory statements.

Quotation

Quotation marks are punctuation marks used in pairs to set off and represent the exact words someone has spoken or written.

Hyphen

The hyphen (-) is a punctuation mark used to join words or parts of words. It serves various purposes in written language.



How to Use a Dictionary Well

1. CHECK THE PART OF SPEECH

Every word in the dictionary has a small label that shows what kind of word it is — for example:

- **noun (n)** → a thing or object (like *a throttle, a blouse*)
- **verb (v)** → an action (like *to swerve, to frown*)
- **adjective (adj)** → a describing word (like *slanted, comfy*)

2. READ THE WHOLE SENTENCE

Ask yourself: *What is happening?*

If the word comes after “the” or “a,” it’s probably a **noun**.

If it comes after a subject (like *he, she, the pilot*), it’s probably a **verb**.

3. CHOOSE THE MEANING THAT MAKES SENSE

Sometimes a word has more than one meaning — choose the one that **fits the situation**.

4. USE THE EXAMPLES IN THE DICTIONARY

Every Oxford Learner’s Dictionary entry gives example sentences — these show **how** to use the word naturally.

Always read them before you decide which meaning is right.



REMEMBER: Don’t just look at the first definition.
Always check the word type and read the sentence carefully!