

English Vocabulary: Verb Tenses and Conjugations

1) English Verb Conjugations (5 or 6)

Verbs are the most important part of many languages – a sentence can't exist without a verb. English verbs are very easy to conjugate. In Portuguese, a verb like **'fazer'** has more than 50 conjugations, but the English verb **'to do'** has only six:

to do	infinitive
do	present simple
does	present simple (3rd person singular)
did	past simple
done	past participle
doing	present participle

<p>Fazer: faço, fazes, faz, fazemos, fazeis, fazem, fazia, fazias, fazíamos, fazíeis, faziam, farei, farás, fará, faremos, fareis, farão, faria, farias, fariamos, faríeis, fariam, fiz, fizeste, fez, fizemos, fizestes, fizeram, fizera, fizeras, fizéramos, fizéreis, faça, façás, façamos, façais, façam, fizesse, fizesseis, fizéssemos, fizésseis, fizessem, fizer, fizeres, fizermos, fizerdes, fizerem, faz, faze, faça, façamos, fazei, fazer, fazeres, fazermos, fazerdes, fazerem, fazendo, feito.</p>
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Regular verbs have only five forms:

to work	infinitive
work	present simple
works	present simple (3rd person singular)
worked	past simple <u>and</u> past participle
working	present participle

Together with auxiliary and modal verbs, the maximum number of conjugations for an English verb is 120. In the Finnish language (Finland), a verb can have more than 4,000 different forms, and in Archi, a language spoken in Russia, a single verb can have over a million forms!

2) All English Verb Tenses (12)

	<u>Verb Tense</u>	<u>Example</u>
PRESENT:	present simple	I work every day.
	present continuous	I am working today.
	present perfect simple	I have worked for 10 years.
	present perfect continuous	I have been working for 10 years.
PAST:	past simple	I worked yesterday.
	past continuous	I was working all last week.
	past perfect simple	I had worked in S.P. before I moved here.
	past perfect continuous *	I had been working in S.P. before I moved here.
FUTURE:	future simple	I will work tomorrow. (or: I am going to work tomorrow.)
	future continuous *	I will be working when you arrive.
	future perfect simple *	I will have worked for 10 years next year.
	future perfect continuous *	I will have been working for 10 years next year.

Recommended videos:

The verb "do" (12 tenses):	https://www.youtube.com/shorts/vmffksroXpA	(1 min)
The simple tenses:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pp4vus0uQz4	(14 mins)
The continuous tenses:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iR346E2pjE	(19 mins)
The perfect simple tenses:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9YRy8m1Rf8	(21 mins)
The perfect continuous tenses:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkheJuWMEUU	(19 mins)

The 8 most-commonly-used verb tenses

Eight of these verb tenses are used frequently and four are rarely used (see asterisks above). Here are some details and examples of the 8 most-used tenses:

Context	Verb Tense	Example(s)	Rule(s)
Regular activity	Present Simple	I visit my parents every Sunday. He visits his parents every Sunday.	he/she/it: add 's'
Current activity	Present Continuous	What are you doing at the moment? I am watching TV.	am/is/are + '-ing'
Finished event (with time reference)	Past Simple	Where did you go yesterday? I went to the park, but I didn't go to school. Why were you sad yesterday? I wasn't sad, I was worried!	did for questions didn't for negatives 'to be' doesn't use did or didn't
Event that occurred during another event	Past Continuous	I was taking a shower when my telephone rang . While I was taking a shower, my telephone rang .	was/were + 'ing' Used together with Past Simple Used with ' when ' or ' while '.
An event in the future (with time reference)	Future Simple	We are going to drive to São Paulo on Saturday. The sun will rise again tomorrow. I think it will rain on Sunday.	am/is/are going to – used for plans will – used for facts and predictions
Finished event (without time reference) Period until now (unfinished action)	Present Perfect Simple	Have you ever visited Japan? No, I have never visited Japan. Peter has visited Japan ten times! I have lived in Curitiba for 15 years.	has/have + past participle Only 'non-action' verbs.
A continuous action (until now)	Present Perfect Continuous	I have been running in the park for two hours. He has been studying Japanese for 6 months.	has/have been + 'ing' Only 'action' verbs.
A finished action before another event/action in the past	Past Perfect Simple	He couldn't enter his house because he had forgotten his keys.	Two events needed (other event in Past Simple)

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qi7imPEvI3U> (70 mins)

Exercise 1. State which verb tense(s) each sentence uses (using only the 8 most common tenses).

1. She has completed her report. _____
2. We have been travelling for seven weeks. _____
3. I am staying in the Marriott Hotel at the moment. _____
4. When I arrived, it was raining. a) _____ b) _____
5. I live with my parents. _____
6. I am going to write some postcards tomorrow. _____
7. I'm tired because I've been playing tennis. a) _____ b) _____
8. He said that he had eaten fish and chips before. a) _____ b) _____
9. What were you drinking last night? _____

Exercise 2. (for advanced students)

State which verb tense each sentence uses (using the 4 less common tenses).

1. We will be seeing them on Saturday. _____
2. On Sunday, I will have been here for one week. _____
3. When we arrived, we had been travelling for seven weeks. _____
4. In February, I will have been studying English for five years. _____

*Yesterday, today was tomorrow,
and tomorrow, today will be yesterday!*

