

Pre-Intermediate Tense Review

There are many tenses in English, but some are more important than others. The purpose of this worksheet is to help you get an overview of some of the most important tenses. The table below shows the tenses that will be covered in this worksheet. It should be noted that the table below does not give all the information about these tenses – it is a very brief overview.

<u>Tense</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Use</u>
Present Simple	<i>He wakes up early every day.</i>	General truths, routines, habits, hobbies
Present Continuous	<i>They are talking too loudly.</i>	What is happening <i>at this moment</i>
Past Simple	<i>He moved to Paris last year.</i>	Events in the past that are finished
Present Perfect	<i>The price of oil has gone up this year.</i>	Started in the past but still continues now
Future Simple	<i>Jessie will leave work soon.</i>	Events in the future
Going to future	<i>I am going to cook for my family.</i>	Events in the future which are planned
1st conditional	<i>If it rains tomorrow, we will cancel.</i>	Possible future, high chance of happening

Present Simple vs Present Continuous

Present simple is used to describe general truths. It is often used to describe habits and routines.

Eg. *I live in a really nice area.* *My dad likes classical music.* *Do you smoke?*

Present continuous is used to describe things that are happening *right now*.

Eg. *I am driving to work.* *My mom is watching the news* *Are you listening?*

Present continuous can also be used to talk about appointments in the future.

Eg. "*What are you doing on Sunday?*" "*I'm having lunch with some friends.*"

Note: Continuous tenses are only used with active verbs, not state verbs. Active verbs are verbs which describe an action such as "run", "talk", or "try." State verbs are verbs which describe a state such as "have", "know", or "want."

Eg *Are you wanting a coffee?* ❌ *Do you want a coffee?* ✅

Even though the question is asking about the present moment, present simple is used because *want* is a state verb, not an active verb.

1. Complete the sentences using present simple or present continuous

- a) He (call) his girlfriend every day.
- b) Now she (help) her grandmother cook dinner.
- c) On Saturdays my dad always (mow) the lawn.
- d) My neighbours (have) a party, it's driving me crazy!
- e) We (not / enjoy) the movie, maybe we should just leave.
- f) This weekend I (help) my friend move apartment.
- g) Usually she (not / eat) meat, but sometimes she (have) fish.
- h) I (try) to find my wallet, but I can't see it anywhere!
- i) What you (do) at the moment?

2. Look at the photos below and answer the questions on the next page.



a) Architect



b) Engineering student



c) Car salesman



d) Restaurant manager



e) Karate teacher



f) Farmers



g) Hairdresser



h) Film makers



i) Police woman

- a) What is he doing? *He is drinking coffee or He is smiling*.....
 What does he do? *He designs buildings*.....
- b) What is she doing?.....
 What does she do?.....
- c) What is he doing?.....
 What does he do?.....
- d) What is he doing?.....
 What does he do?.....
- e) What is he doing?.....
 What does he do?.....
- f) What are they doing?.....
 What do they do?.....
- g) What is he doing?.....
 What does he do?.....
- h) What are they doing?.....
 What do they do?.....
- i) What is she doing?.....
 What does she do?.....

 **3. Complete the questions below in present simple or present continuous and ask your partner the completed questions.**

- a) Where you (live)?
- b) What you (do) this weekend?
- c) How many jackets you (own)?
- d) you (have) any pets?
- e) What the teacher (do) right now?
- f) your house (have) a balcony?
- g) How many languages you (speak)?

Past Simple vs Present Perfect

Past simple is used to describe anything in the past that is finished.

Eg. *I hated my teachers in school.* *She did not eat much.* *Did you have a good time?*

Present perfect is used to describe anything that started in the past, but is ongoing at the moment.

Eg. *I have been sick for 3 days.* *Have you applied for the job?* *She hasn't arrived yet.*

Another way to think about this is that past simple is used when the answer is *closed*, and present perfect is used when the answer is *open*.

Eg. *J.R Tolkien wrote 12 books.* (Past simple, the answer is closed and cannot change)

JK Rowling has written 28 books. (Present perfect, the answer is open and can change)

Past simple is used with times that are finished, such as "3 hours ago", "yesterday", and "last year."

Present perfect is used with times which are unfinished such as "today", "this month" and "since 2019."



4. Read the sentences below and choose the most logical follow-up sentence.

a) "I have always hated romantic movies."

- 1. "But now I'm older I love them." 2. "They're just so cliché."

b) "I didn't have a pet until I was 25 years old."

- 1. "I don't think I'll ever have one." 2. "But now I have 3 dogs and a turtle."

c) "I've sent my landlord 3 emails about my shower, but he hasn't answered any of them."

- 1. "I think I'll have to call him." 2. "Eventually I just fixed the problem myself."

d) "Jessie was a terrible housemate, I'm so glad she moved out."

- 1. "She has never cleaned the kitchen" 2. "She played loud music every night."



5. Complete the sentences using past simple or present perfect

a) Yesterday I (see) a very ugly baby.

b) My parents (not / have) much money when I was young.

c) I (not / eat) meat since I was 15.

d) you (go) to the party last night?

e) She (be) the Prime Minister for the last 10 years.

f) How many countries you (visit)?

g) It (take) me 3 hours to fix the car, but it's running again.

h) I'm sorry, I (not / know) you're allergic to nuts.

Future Simple vs Going to

Future simple is used to talk about the future, and is often used if the speaker is making the decision *in the moment*.

Eg. *"I'm getting cold, I will put on a jacket."* or *"I won't buy this now, maybe later."*

The structure is (will + base verb)

Going to is used to talk about plans that have already been made.

Eg. *"I am going to study science, I decided that last month"* or *"She isn't going to move to Paris"*

The structure is (verb be + going to + base verb)

Note: There are many situations in which both "going to" and future simple are correct.



6. Complete the sentences using future simple or going to and the verb in brackets.

a) "We're planning a surprise party for Carlos, can you give us a hand?"

"Sure, I (bring) some champagne."

b) "Hey do you want to watch a movie with me?"

"Sorry I can't, I (meet) my parents for dinner tonight."

c) "I missed the announcement, what did they say?"

"They said the company (let) more people work from home."

d) "We've run out of eggs."

"I know, Sarah (get) some on the way home."

e) "You need to stop giving your dogs treats, she's getting fat."

"You're right. Ok, I (not / give) her any treats for a few days."

f) "Sir are you ready to order?"

"Yes I think so. Hmmm. Ok, I (have) the roasted chicken with sweet potatoes."

g) Do you want to come to the beach with us this weekend?

"Let me talk to my girlfriend first and I (let) you know later."

h) "Did they offer you a promotion?"

"Yes, but I (not / take) it, the hours are too long."

i) "Have you talked to your friend about buying my car?"

"I have, I'm sorry he (not / buy) it, it's too expensive for him."

