Tenses

Tenses indicate when an action happens—**past, present, or future**. Each of these main tenses has four aspects: **simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous**.
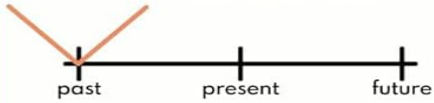
VERB TENSES IN ENGLISH

PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE

I studied English. — I study English. — I will study English.

PAST SIMPLE — PRESENT SIMPLE — FUTURE SIMPLE

I had studied English. — I have studied English. — I will have studied English.

PAST PERFECT — PRESENT PERFECT — FUTURE PERFECT

I was studying English. — I am studying English. — I will be studying English.

PAST CONTINUOUS — PRESENT CONTINUOUS — FUTURE CONTINUOUS

I had been studying English. — I have been studying English. — I will have been studying English.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS — PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS — FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

ENGLISH VERB TENSES
GRAPHICAL OVERVIEW

PAST

Simple Past
past · present · future
I **wrote** a book yesterday.

Past Continuous
past · present · future
I **was writing** a book all day long.
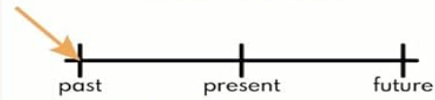
Past Perfect
past · present · future
I **had written** a book.
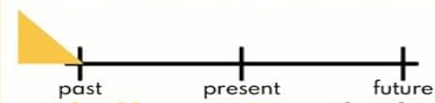
Past Perfect Continuous
past · present · future
I **had been writing** a book.

PRESENT
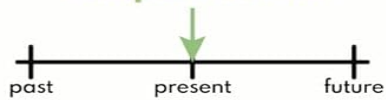
Simple Present
past · present · future
I **write** books.
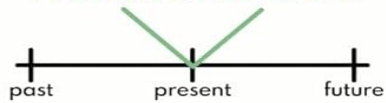
Present Continuous
past · present · future
I **am writing** a book now.
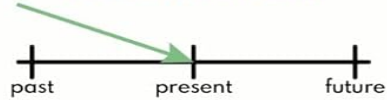
Present Perfect
past · present · future
I **have written** a book.
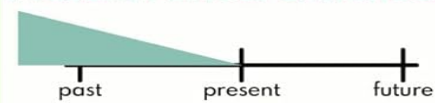
Present Perfect Continuous
past · present · future
I **have been writing** a book.

FUTURE

Simple Future
past · present · future
I **will write** a book.
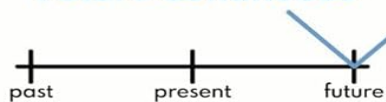
Future Continuous
past · present · future
I **will be writing** a book.
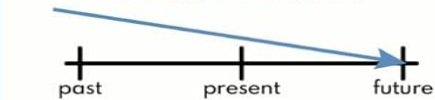
Future Perfect
past · present · future
I **will have written** a book by the end of the week.

Future Perfect Continuous
past · present · future
I **will have been writing** a book.