**COMPLEX TENSES**

**The present progressive tense:**

The present progressive is used to describe a single action that is in progress at a specific moment, usually the moment of speaking or writing.

Examples:

Samson is studying the lesson right now.

The people are cheering wildly.

The present progressive may also be used to describe an action in progress over a long period of time, even though the action may not be taking place at the moment of speaking or writing. This action, however, is perceived as temporary.

Examples:

David is attending the University of California. (he may be on vacation at the moment of speaking but he is still a registered student there).

He is taking his first course in broadcasting this semester. (again he may not be in class right now, but he is enrolled in it).

She is writing her first novel . (the pen may not be in her hand at this precise moment, but the activity is going on during the present time span and will end at some time in the future).

The present progressive can be used to express a future action, especially when that action is in the near future. Usually you need adverbials of time to clarify that the present progressive is indicating future time.

Examples:

 Next week he is giving his first demonstration.

 Miss La Belle is appearing at the Orange Grove Theater tomorrow night.

 The ship is arriving this afternoon at three o’clock.

 We are taking the exam later this afternoon/

The present progressive can also express the beginning, progression, or end of an action in the present time.

Examples:

 It is beginning to get hot.

 It is starting to rain again.

 My writing is getting worse.

 I am becoming a little irritated with you.

 The movie is just beginning.

Note: The verb “be” is used in the progressive since it describes a general state of being. There are instances , however when you do use the verb “be” in the progressive.

Example:

 My child is being obnoxious right now. Please excuse him;

In this instance, the progressive is used because the meaning is “my child is acting obnoxiously right now”. The child is not generally obnoxious.

**2- The present perfect:**

**Form:** Subject + have, has + past participle.

**Uses:**

**-**We use the present perfect simple when an action in the past has a result now.

Example: Tom is looking for his key. He can’t find it.

He has lost his key. (He lost it and still hasn’t got it).

- We often use the present perfect simple to give new information or to announce a recent happening.

Example: The road is closed. There has been an accident.

- We can use the present perfect simple with just, already, yet, recently, so far, since

- We use the present perfect simple when we mention that it is the the first time something has happened

Examples: Bob is having a driving lesson. He is very nervous and unsure, because it is his first lesson.

* It’s the first time he has driven a car.
* He has never driven a car before.

**3- The Present perfect continuous:**

**Form:** Subject+ have, has + been + stem + ing

Example: It has been raining.

**Uses:**

- We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped. There is a connection with now.

Example: You are out of breath. Have you been running?

Paul is very tired. He has been working very hard.

- We use the present perfect continuous with “how long, for” and “since” when the action is still happening or has just stopped.

Example: It is raining now. It began raining two hours ago and is still raining. How long has it been raining? It has been raining for 2 hours.

- We can use the present perfect continuous for an action repeated over a period of time.

Example: John is a very good tennis player. He has been playing since he was eight.

**4- Past continuous:**

**Form:** Subject + was, were + stem + ing.

Example: This time last year, I was living in Brazil.

**Uses:**

- We use the past continuous to say that somebody was in the middle of doing something at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this time but had not finished.

Example: Yesterday Karen and Jim played tennis, they began at 10 o’clock and finished at 11.30. So at 10.30, they were playing tennis.

- We often use the past simple and the past continuous together to say that something happened in the middle of something else.

Example: Tom burnt his hand when he was cooking the dinner.

* While I was working in the garden, I hurt my finger.

**5- The past perfect:**

**Form:** Subject+ had+ past participle.

Example: John had gone to London.

**Use:**

We use the past perfect if we want to talk about things that happened before the starting point of the story.

Example: Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too but they didn’t see each other. Paul went home at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o’clock.

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn’t there. He had gone home.

**6- Past perfect continuous:**

**Form:** Subject+ had + been+ stem + ing.

Example: Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window. The sun was shining but the ground was very wet. It had been raining.

**Use:** You can say that something had been happening for a period of time before something else happened.

Example: Ken gave up smoking two years ago.

He had been smoking for 30 years.

**7- The future perfect:**

**Form:** Subject+ will+ have+ past participle.

Example: Tomorrow at 09.30, the match will have finished.

**Use:** We use the future perfect to say that something will already be complete.

Example: Sally always leaves for work at 08.30 in the morning. So, she won’t be at home at 09 o’clock. She’ll have gone to work.

**8- The future continuous:**

**Form:** Subject+ will+ be + stem+ ing.

Example: After 3 years, I will be teaching English.

**Uses:**

- We use the future continuous when we will be in the middle of doing something.

Example: The football match begins at 07.30 and ends at 09.15. So during this time for example at 08.30, Kevin will be watching the match.

- We also use the future continuous to talk about complete actions in the future

Example: If you see Sally, can you ask her to phone me?

- Sure, I’ll be seeing her this evening. So, I’ll tell her then.

- We can use the future continuous to ask about somebody’s plans, especially if we want him to do something.

Example: Will you be passing the post office when you are out?

**Exercises:**

**Exercise 01:** Complete the sentences with one of the following verbs in the correct form:

Look, make, have, work, learn, try, see.

1-You ……hard today? Yes? I have a lot to do.

2-Would you like something to eat? No thanks, I …..just……lunch.

3- Maria…… English for two years.

4- You ……. A lot of noise. Could you be quieter? I …….to concentrate.

5- Is Ann coming to the cinema with us? No, she ……already……the film.

6- Hello Tom, I ……for you all morning. Where have you been?

**Exercise 02:** Read the situation and write sentences from the words:

1- I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn’t come. (she arrange to do something else)

2- You went to the cinema last night. You arrived at the cinema late. (the film already begin)

3- I was very tires when I arrived at home. (I work hard all day).

4- I haven’t seen Alan for ages when (I last see him) (he try to find a job).

5- There was nobody in the room, but there was a small cigarette. (somebody smoke in the room).

6- We were in a very difficult position (we not know what to do).

**Exercise 03:** Put the verbs into the correct form: “will be doing” or “will have done”.

1- Don’t phone me between 7 and 8 we (have) dinner then.

2- Phone me after 8 o’clock (we finish) by then.

3- Tomorrow afternoon we are going to play tennis from 3 o’clock until 4.30, so at 4 o’clock (we play) tennis.

4- Do you think (you still do) the same job in ten years time?

56 If you need to contact me (I stay) at the Hilton hotel until Friday.