

Verb Tense Review 2 – The Perfect Tenses

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Grammar Notes

THE 6 PERFECT TENSES & TIME MARKERS

A. Present Perfect & Present Perfect Progressive

Tense	Present Perfect		Present Perfect Progressive
Diagram			
Form	Have / Has + Past Participle		Have / Has + Been + -ing Verb
Function	An action that starts in the past, continues to the present, and may continue to the future.	An undefined past action (we don't know <i>when</i> the action occurred).	An action starts in the past, continues to the present, and will continue into the future.
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for • since • all 	(none required, though <i>ever, never, already, still, and yet</i> may be used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for • since • all
Example	I have studied English for five years.	I have been to Paris.	I have been living in New York City since 2006.

Notes:

- For** and **all** indicate duration.
 - They have been travelling **for** six months.
 - We've been in a meeting **all** morning.
- Since** shows the starting point.
 - He has played the guitar **since** May 2012.
- Ever** emphasizes "at any time in the past."
 - Have you **ever** been to Europe?
- Never** emphasizes "at no time in the past."
 - I've **never** been to Europe.
- Already** emphasizes that an action has occurred.
 - We have **already** read this book.
- Still** and **yet** signify the intention to do something.
 - She **still** hasn't finished the assignment.
 - She hasn't finished the assignment **yet**.

Grammar Notes cont.

B. Past Perfect & Past Perfect Progressive

Tense	Past Perfect	Past Perfect Progressive
Diagram		
Form	Had + Past Participle	Had + Been + -ing Verb
Function	The first past action finished before the second past action.	The first past action continued until the second past action.
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by the time when before after (Note: The typical past markers <i>last</i> , <i>yesterday</i> , and <i>ago</i> are often additionally used.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by the time when before (Note: The typical progressive markers <i>for</i> and <i>since</i> are often additionally used.)
Examples	I had finished dinner by the time he called me last night.	My sister had been studying English for 11 years before she entered university.

Note:

In English, it is possible to begin a sentence with either an **independent clause** (with the past perfect/past perfect progressive verb) or a **dependent clause** (with the time marker) with no change in meaning. Remember to use a comma when a sentence begins with a dependent clause.

- I **had finished** dinner by the time he called me last night.
- By the time he called me last night, I **had finished** dinner.
- My sister **had been studying** English for 11 years before she entered university.
- Before she entered university, my sister **had been studying** English for 11 years.

Grammar Notes cont.

C. Future Perfect & Future Perfect Progressive

Tense	Future Perfect	Future Perfect Progressive
Diagram		
Form	Will + Have + Past Participle	Will + Have + Been + -ing Verb
Function	The first future action will finish before the second future action.	The first future action will continue until the second future action.
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by the time when before (Note: The typical future markers <i>next, tomorrow, and from now</i> are often additionally used.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by the time when before (Note: The typical progressive marker <i>for</i> is often additionally used.)
Examples	I will have finished dinner by the time she calls me tonight.	I will have been studying for two hours by the time she calls me tonight.

Note:

In English, it is possible to begin a sentence with either an **independent clause** (with the future perfect/future perfect progressive verb) or a **dependent clause** (with the time marker) with no change in meaning. Remember to use a comma when a sentence begins with a dependent clause.

- I **will have finished** dinner by the time she calls me tonight.
- By the time she calls me tonight, I **will have finished** dinner.
- I **will have been studying** for two hours by the time she calls me tonight.
- By the time she calls me tonight, I **will have been studying** for two hours.

Exercise 1

PRESENT PERFECT & SIMPLE PAST

Write the simple past or present perfect form of the verb in parentheses.

1. I'm late. The class has already started.
(start)
2. I _____ in a course a week ago.
(enroll)
3. _____ you _____ preparing your presentation last night?
(finish)
4. She _____ me back yesterday.
(call, not)
5. My accountant _____ me the tax package.
(give)
6. The athlete _____ for hours on the weekend.
(train)
7. I sang while I _____ my house.
(clean)
8. He _____ the latest news.
(hear, not)
9. I _____ my face and I went to bed.
(wash)
10. _____ you _____ for Paris yet?
(leave)

Exercise 2

PRESENT PERFECT & PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

Change the present perfect into the present perfect progressive whenever it's possible.

1. She has studied French for seven years.

She has been studying French for seven years.

2. The old woman has lived in this apartment since 1976.
-

3. I have never been to this neighbourhood before.
-

4. Our teacher has given us a lot of homework lately.
-

5. My brother has watched TV for the past two hours.
-

6. We have made an appointment to meet with the CEO.
-

7. Our waiter has only come by our table once.
-

8. Have you already seen this movie?
-

9. They have tried to fix the problem.
-

10. My mother hasn't spoken to me about my behaviour yet.
-

Exercise 3

PAST PERFECT & PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

Fill in the blanks with a verb from the box.
Use the past perfect or the past perfect progressive tense.

- The students had written their final exams before they graduated.
- His sister _____ for eight hours before her alarm clock rang.
- My father _____ for two hours by the time the doctor saw him.
- By the time he left work for the day, Mr. Jones _____ the report.
- By the time she arrived at the restaurant, they _____ home.
- My aunt _____ for three hours before everyone showed up.

Word List:

- wait
- go
- cook
- sleep
- write
- finish

Exercise 4

FUTURE PERFECT & FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

Find and correct the error in each future perfect or future perfect progressive sentence.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. She will have been waiting for two hours by the time the doctor saw her.
<u>She will have been waiting for two hours by the time the doctor sees her.</u></p> | <p>4. Her teacher will have graded her final exam before she apply to university.
_____</p> |
| <p>2. Mrs. Cooper will has been travelling for weeks by the time she has to return the rental car.
_____</p> | <p>5. The class will have been reading Chapter 4 before they begin Chapter 5.
_____</p> |
| <p>3. My friend will have been feeding his dog before he takes it to the vet.
_____</p> | <p>6. By the time they will have been going to the national competition, the teammates will have been playing together for months.
_____</p> |

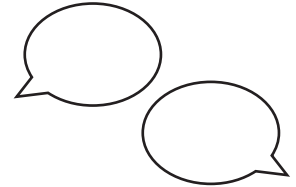
Exercise 5

ALL 6 PERFECT TENSES

A. Speaking

Tell your partner about your life's accomplishments and your future plans.

- Talk about your past achievements.
Use the present perfect, past perfect, and/or past perfect progressive.
- Talk about goals you are working toward now.
Use the present perfect and/or present perfect progressive.
- Talk about your future plans.
Use the future perfect and/or future perfect progressive.



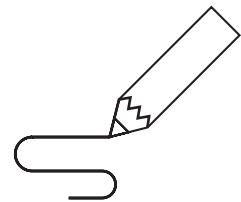
Examples:

- I had been learning French for four years by the time I was ten years old.
- I have been married for 14 years.
- I will have travelled all over the world for work before I retire.

B. Writing

Now write about your partner's life achievements and goals in your notebook.

- Write two sentences about past achievements.
Use the present perfect, past perfect, and/or past perfect progressive.
- Write two sentences about goals he or she is working toward now.
Use the present perfect and/or present perfect progressive.
- Write two sentences about future plans.
Use the future perfect and/or future perfect progressive.



Examples:

- Lisa had received two science awards before she entered high school.
- Lisa has been driving for six years.
- Lisa will have been studying English for 25 years by the time she is 40.

Exercise 6

ALL 6 PERFECT TENSES

Make sentences with the verb forms indicated below. Choose a suitable time marker for each sentence. Words in parentheses will be necessary for some tenses, but not for others.

1. she / finish dinner / he / called

Past Perfect: She had finished dinner by the time he called.

Future Perfect: She will have finished dinner by the time he calls.

2. my cousin / play / the guitar / several years

Present Perfect: _____

Present Perfect Progressive: _____

3. everyone / leave / my coworker / lock up

Past Perfect: _____

Future Perfect: _____

4. my friend / do / yoga / 1995

Present Perfect: _____

Present Perfect Progressive: _____

5. you / sleep / eight hours / I / call / you

Past Perfect Progressive: _____

Future Perfect Progressive: _____

6. she / live / overseas / (get married)

Present Perfect: _____

Past Perfect: _____

Future Perfect: _____

7. he / study / English / for five years / (2010 or 2020)

Present Perfect Progressive: _____

Past Perfect Progressive: _____

Future Perfect Progressive: _____

Exercise 7

ALL 12 SIMPLE & PERFECT TENSES

Write each verb in the correct verb tense to complete the story. Some tenses will be used more than once. If more than one tense is possible, try to list all the possibilities.

My Career Path

When I was a child, I really want

1. be 2. want

to be a ballerina. By the time I be ten years old,

3. be

I practise ballet for six years. One day, I dance onstage when I

4. practise 5. dance

fall and twist my ankle. I had to stop dancing for a while.

6. fall 7. twist 8. stop

After that, I become interested in interior design. I spend hours

9. become 10. spend

rearranging my mother's furniture. I learn, already a lot by the time I enter

11. learn, already 12. enter

college to do my degree in interior design.

13. do

Now I work at a design firm downtown. I love my job! I work

14. work 15. love 16. work

here for two years. I work here for three years by the time I get my own office.

17. work 18. get

I feel very satisfied at that time.

19. feel

In my life, I have a lot of practice designing and decorating rooms.

20. have

I think I be quite good at it, too.

21. think 22. be

Can you believe that by the time I be 65, I work

23. believe 24. be 25. work

at the same company for 25 years? At that time, I think I be ready to retire.

26. think 27. be

Verb Tenses:

- simple present
- present progressive
- simple past
- past progressive
- simple future
- future progressive
- present perfect
- present perfect progressive
- past perfect
- past perfect progressive
- future perfect
- future perfect progressive

Exercise 8

QUIZ: ALL 12 SIMPLE & PERFECT TENSES

Circle the correct verb tense for each sentence.

1. By the time she gets this message, we _____ the meeting.
 - a) will start
 - b) will have been starting
 - c) will have started
 - d) are starting
2. My roommate must be tired. She _____ for nine hours.
 - a) am sleeping
 - b) has been sleeping
 - c) will have been sleeping
 - d) will be sleeping
3. _____ to Japan?
 - a) Have you travelled
 - b) Did you travel
 - c) Are you travelled
 - d) Had you travelled
4. Mr. Jacobs _____ here since 1991.
 - a) taught
 - b) will be teaching
 - c) is teaching
 - d) has been teaching
5. My husband's cell phone rang while he _____ .
 - a) had driven
 - b) had been driving
 - c) was driving
 - d) drove
6. By the time their friend arrived, they _____ for three hours.
 - a) will have been waiting
 - b) have been waiting
 - c) had been waiting
 - d) are waiting
7. When he finishes preparing for his presentation, he _____ home.
 - a) will go
 - b) goes
 - c) will have gone
 - d) will have been going
8. He had been studying for two hours when the doorbell _____ .
 - a) rang
 - b) had been ringing
 - c) was ringing
 - d) had rung
9. They _____ by the time the university president resigns.
 - a) will have been graduating
 - b) had graduated
 - c) had been graduating
 - d) will have graduated
10. I _____ what you mean.
 - a) saw
 - b) will be seeing
 - c) see
 - d) am seeing