

# Tenses

## Present Tenses

Present simple	I do	Habits, repetitive actions
Present continuous	I am doing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Temporary events</li> <li>2. Actions of movement</li> <li>3. This week, this year</li> </ol>
Present perfect	I have done	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Life experience</li> <li>2. Action in past, result in present</li> <li>3. Action finished a moment before</li> </ol>
Present perfect continuous	I have been doing	Same rules as present perfect, but the emphasis falls on the time period

## Past Tenses

Past simple	I did	Completely finished action
Past continuous	I was doing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The event happened in a specific time in the past</li> <li>2. To show that an action is in the middle of a moment</li> </ol>
Past perfect	I had done	To show that one action happened before another in the past
Past perfect continuous	I had been doing	Same rules as present perfect, but the emphasis falls on the time period

## Future Tenses

Future simple	I will do	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unsure future events (maybe, etc)</li> <li>2. Predictions</li> </ol>
Present continuous with future meaning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. I am doing</li> <li>b. I am going to do</li> </ol>	Plans, arrangements, decisions
Present simple with future meaning	The play starts at 7 pm	Programmes, timetables
Future perfect	I will have done	Actions that happen before a certain time in future e.g. By six pm I will have had supper
Future perfect continuous	I will have been doing	Same rules as present perfect, but the emphasis falls on the time period

Reference: UCT Upper Campus Writing Centre, 2015