

1. Halbjahr 2024  
*Englisch Grammar Refresher for You B1-B2*  
241-40660, Do, 17.00 – 18.00 Uhr

**What tenses do you know?**

Present tense

The weather **is** nice.

Present perfect

I **have finished** my homework.

Past tense

Barack Obama **was** the 44<sup>th</sup> president of the United States.

Past perfect

I **had watched** the news before I went to bed.

Future tense I

I **will** stay home tomorrow.

Future tense II

We **will have eaten** dinner by the time you arrive.

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**What tenses do you know?**

Present tense

a) is used to describe something that constitutes a (regular) status:

*Spiders **have** eight legs. Insects **do not/don't have** eight legs.*

*The Eiffel Tower **is** in Paris. The Tower Bridge **is not** in Paris.*

*Jeff **gets up** at 6 o'clock. Tim **does not/doesn't get up** at 6 o'clock.*

To describe a status, the present tense uses the **simple** form.

b) is used to describe an ongoing process or a temporary action:

*You **are listening** to me. (ongoing process)*

*He **is working** on a project this week. (temporary action)*

c) is used to describe future arrangements or plans:

*I **am having** dinner with my boss tomorrow.*

d) is used to describe ongoing trends or changes:

*The climate **is getting** warmer.*

*With the introduction of AI, technology **is advancing** rapidly.*

In these cases (b, c, d), the present tense is used in the **continuous/progressive form**.

What elements are used for the continuous/progressive form in the present tense?

The form of **to be** corresponding to the **subject** of the sentence + the **present participle** (-ing form) of the sentence's the main verb (= the sentence's **predicate**)

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**The present tense**

Translate:  
(using the present  
tense)

Wir schauen uns normalerweise die Tagesschau um 8 Uhr an.

*We normally watch the Tagesschau at 8 o'clock.*

Was machst du (gerade)?

*What are you doing?*

Ich wohne in Siegburg.

*I live in Siegburg.*

Die Zeiten werden härter.

*Times are getting harder.*

Gewöhnlich regnet's im November.

*It usually rains in November.*

“Wie ist das Wetter?” - “Es regnet.”

*“What's the weather like?” - “It's raining.”*

Wir spielen morgen Fußball.

*We are playing football tomorrow.*

Ich habe kein Auto.

*I don't have a car.*

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**What tenses do you know?**

Present perfect

**I have finished** my homework.

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**What tenses do you know?**

Present perfect

a) is used to express actions or states that began in the past but have not been completed yet/are still ongoing:

*I have always lived in Germany. (I still live in Germany.)*

*I have never been to Africa. (from the past until the present time)*

*I have been waiting for twenty minutes. (I am still waiting.)*

b) is used to express actions or states that happened in the past but have a connection or relevance to the present:

*I have finished my homework. (It is still finished)*

*She has lost her keys. (...and still has not found them)*

**Note:** Other than in the German language, the present perfect and the past tense are **not** interchangeable in English.

**German:** Ich **war** gestern in Bonn. - Ich **bin** gestern in Bonn **gewesen**.

**English:** I **was** in Bonn yesterday. (But: I **have been** in/to Bonn since yesterday.)

Adverbs of frequency that indicate the use of either the present tense or the present perfect include: **always, never, often, usually** (present tense), **ever** (present perfect).

*I **always/usually** eat lunch at noon. I have **always** liked icecream.*

*We **never** have coffee for breakfast. He has **never** been to Paris.*

*We **often** have lunch together. He has **often** travelled to Paris.*

*Have you **ever** been to Australia?*

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**The present perfect**

Translate:  
(using the present  
perfect)

Sie war schon immer sehr schüchtern.

*She has always been very shy.*

Ich war noch niemals in New York.

*I have never been to New York.*

Warst du schon mal in Australien?

*Have you (ever) been to Australia?*

Ich warte hier schon zwei Stunden.

*I have already been waiting here for two hours.*

Ich wohne seit dem letzten Jahr in Siegburg

*I have lived in Siegburg since last year.*

I habe John in der letzten Zeit häufiger getroffen.

*I have met John quite often recently.*

Die Brille, die ich letzte Woche verlegt habe, habe ich noch nicht gefunden.

*I still have not found the glasses that I misplaced last week.*

**Note:** Even if the present or past tense are used in colloquial German, the present perfect may be the only option acceptable in English!

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Past tense

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**What tenses do you know?**

Past tense

a) is used to describe actions or states that happened and were finished in the past:

*We had a barbecue yesterday. (The barbecue is over.)*

*They went to the beach last week. (They are no longer at the beach.)*

b) is used to describe past habits, repeated actions or states or conditions that existed in the past:

*When we were in Italy, we always had tea for breakfast.*

*He used to play the piano every day after school.*

*Our first car was a VW.*

c) is used in reported speech:

*She said: "I like icecream".*

*She said that she **liked** icecream.*

*He said: "I am watching the football match".*

*He said that he **was watching** the football match.*

**Note:** to describe something that happened during an ongoing process in the past, the **action that started first** is presented in the progressive form, the **later action** uses the **simple form**:

*While we **were having** dinner, it **started** to rain.*

*The phone **rang** when he **was having** a shower.*

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**The past tense**

Complete with the correct form of the verb in the past tense:

Yesterday, I (to eat) pizza for dinner.

*Yesterday, I ate pizza for dinner.*

When they (to play) chess, a thunderstorm (to come up).

*When they were playing chess, a thunderstorm came up.*

Put into reported speech:

She said: "I am interested in music."

*She said that she was interested in music.*

John said: "I don't have a car."

*John said that he didn't have a car.*

The tour guide asked: "Are you ready?"

*The tour guide asked if we/they were ready.*

Translate:

Er hatte einen Unfall, als er nach hause fuhr.

*He had an accident when he was driving home.*

Erst ist er gestern in's Kino gegangen,  
dann hat er seinen Autoschlüssel verloren

*Yesterday, he first went to the movies, then he lost his car key.*

Er fragte den Kellner, wo die Toilette sei.

*He asked the waiter where the toilet/restroom was..*