

Tenses

Present simple

Monkeys love bananas.

Past simple

He watched the football match yesterday.

Tenses

Simple form (present
and past)

a) is used to describe habitual actions or facts:

*She **swims** every morning.*

*We **used to** swim every morning.*

b) is used for general truths:

*The sun **rises** in the East.*

*Yesterday **was** Wednesday.*

c) is used for permanent situations:

*He **lives** in New York.*

*He **lived** in New York when he was 20 years old.*

d) is used for scheduled events in the future, both from the present and past perspective:

*The **train** leaves at 9 o'clock tomorrow..*

*The bus for the beach **left** at 10 o'clock every day.*

Write your own examples, one each for a), b), c) and d).

Tenses

Present continuous

I **am talking** to you right now.

Past continuous

I **was talking** to him when his wife called.

Tenses

Present continuous

a) 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)*

b) is used to describe future arrangements or plans:

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

c) is used to describe ongoing trends or changes:

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

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

Write your own examples, one each for a), b) and c).

Tenses

Past continuous

is used to describe actions or events that were ongoing or in progress at a specific point in the past.

Actions in progress when another action happened:

I was studying when the phone rang.

Actions happening simultaneously in the past:

It was raining heavily while we were driving home.

Polite inquiries or offers:

I was wondering if you were interested in joining us for dinner.

Write your own examples, one each for a), b) and c).

1. Halbjahr 2026
Englisch Grammar Refresher for You B1-B2
261-40660, Do, 17.00 – 18.00 Uhr

Use the continuous/progressive form:

We (to study) English.

Present tense

*We **are studying** English.*

Present perfect

*We **have been studying** English.*

Past tense

*We **were studying** English.*

Past perfect

*We **had been studying** English.*

Future 1

*We **will be studying** English.*

Future 2

*We **will have been studying** English.*

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Use the simple or continuous/progressive form:

Translate:

Männer trinken gerne Bier.

*Men **like** to drink beer.*

Ich warte hier schon seit einer Stunde.

*I've already **been waiting** here for an hour.*

Während wir nach Hause gingen, begann es zu regnen.

While we **were going** home it **started** to rain.

Wer bereitet die Dinge für heute Abend vor?

*Who **is preparing** the things for tonight?*

Es schneit. Wir müssen zuhause bleiben.

*It **is snowing**. We **have to** stay home.*

Wandern macht Spaß.

*Hiking **is** fun.*

Question tags

Hiking is fun, isn't it?

You don't have a car, do you?

Question tags

Principles

Question tags are short questions that follow a statement. Their German equivalents are truisms/set phrases (Floskeln) like “..., nicht wahr?”, “..., ja?”. They are often used to confirm information or to seek agreement or confirmation from the listener.

Question tags are formed using the the statement’s auxiliary or modal verb plus a (personal) pronoun. If there is no auxiliary or modal verb, *to do* is used.

A positive statement is used with the short form of a negative question tag and a negative statement is used with a positive question tag.

You know Jim, don't you?

He can't swim, can he?

Modal verbs

Examples of modal verbs include *can, will, should, ought to....* Modal verbs do not have an infinitive with “to” and, used in a statement or question, need another verb to complete a sentence.

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Add the corresponding question tag:

The sofa wasn't too expensive,

was it?

Lisa's new flat is lovely,

isn't it?

They didn't spend a lot of time looking for a new car,

did they?

We could visit my mother tomorrow,

couldn't we?

You like icecream,

don't you?

You haven't waited very long,

have you?

Question tags

Imperatives

When combined with the imperative form of a verb, question tags serve a specific purpose in communication.

When a question tag is added to the end of an imperative sentence, it can soften the command or request, make it sound more polite, or seek confirmation or compliance from the listener.

Close the door, will you?

Please pass me the salt, would you?

Don't forget to call me, okay?

When combined with the imperative form of a verb, question tags have the positive format.