

ENGLISH TENSES



It's all about
Engagement

Presented by:
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CONTENT

- Present Simple
- Present Progressive (continuous)
- Past simple
- Past Progressive (continuous)
- Present Perfect
- Future

This course provides an overview that students can use when studying English tenses.

English has 16 verb tenses, but only 10 of them are frequently

[In our workshop we'll focus on 6 of them only.](#)

[They are:](#)

1. Present Simple
2. Present Progressive (continuous)
3. Past simple
4. Past Progressive (continuous)
5. Present Perfect
6. Future

Time is the first thing to explain when describing the English tenses.

In all human languages time is divided into 3 areas that can be represented in a timeline ;



Now= the current moment

Past = time before the current moment

Future = time after the current moment

1. PRESENT SIMPLE



Quick examples

- John lives in New York.
- We play football every day.
- You are really kind.
- The meeting starts at 3 p.m.

Use

1. Facts, generalizations and universal truths
2. Habits and routines
3. Permanent situations
4. Events that are certain to happen
5. Arrangements that we can't change (e.g. timetables, official meetings)
6. State verbs (e.g. be, have, suppose, know)
7. Narrations, instructions or commentaries

Use 1: Facts, Generalizations and Universal Truths

We use the Present Simple to talk about universal truths (for example, laws of nature) or things we believe are, or are not,

true. It's also used to generalize about something or somebody.

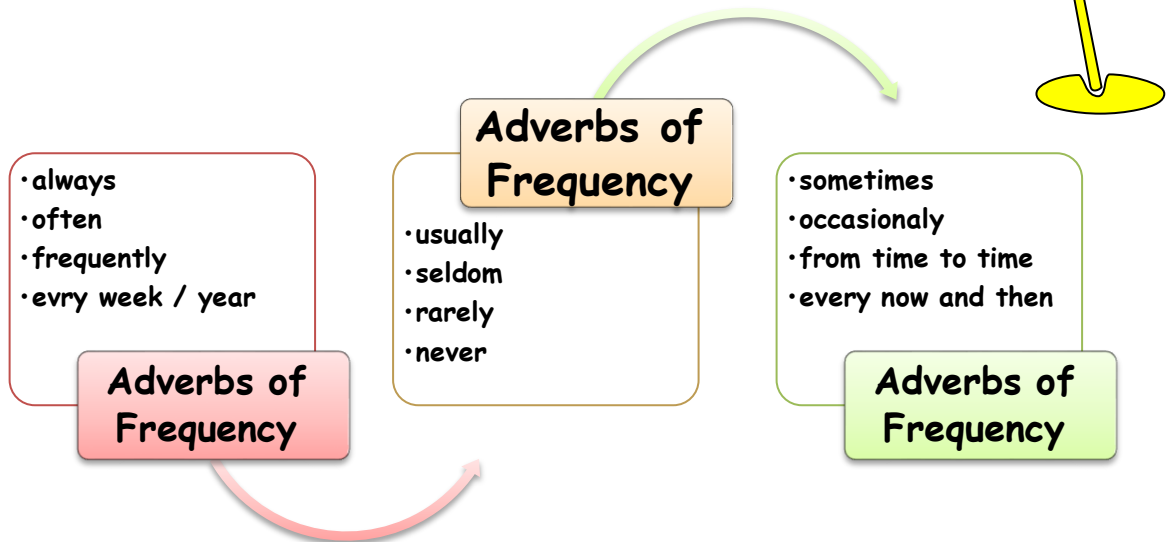
- Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.
- It is a big house.
- The Earth goes around the Sun.
- Dogs are better than cats.
- Berlin is the capital city of Germany.
- The Elephant doesn't fly.
- London is the capital city of France.
- (**Remember**: the sentence does **not** have to be true)

Use 2: Habits and Routines

We also use this tense to describe actions that happen frequently. For example: habits, routines, tendencies.

- We leave for work at 7:30 a.m. every morning.
- My husband watches the TV in the evening.
- Susan often meets with her friends after school.
- They usually play football on Sunday.

- Mark rarely visits his sick grandmother.
- Pinocchio usually tells lies.



A few examples how to use them in sentences:

- I always go to church on Sundays.
- I never eat anything after 10 p.m.

Use 3: Permanent Situations

Use the Present Simple to talk about situations in life that last a relatively long time.

- I live in Boston
- He works as a fireman.
- Margaret drives a Volkswagen.
- Jerry doesn't teach Math at high school.

Use 4: Events Certain to Happen

Use the Present Simple when an event is certain to happen in the future.

- My grandmother turns 100 this July.
- Winter starts on December 21.

Use 5: State Verbs

You should use the Present Simple with state verbs.

- I like swimming.
- We know this man.

Use 6: Arrangements that we cannot change

Use the Present Simple to talk about events that we can't change (for example, an official meeting or a train departure).

- The meeting starts at 4 p.m.
- The train leaves at the noon.
- When does the plane take off?
- Jerry doesn't teach Math at high school.

Use 7: Narrations, Instructions or commentaries

The Present Simple is also used in narrations (e.g. to tell a story or a joke), instructions (e.g. cooking) or commentaries (especially sport commentaries).

- "A man goes to visit a friend and is amazed to find him playing chess with his dog. He watches the game in astonishment for a while [...]"

Write your own examples

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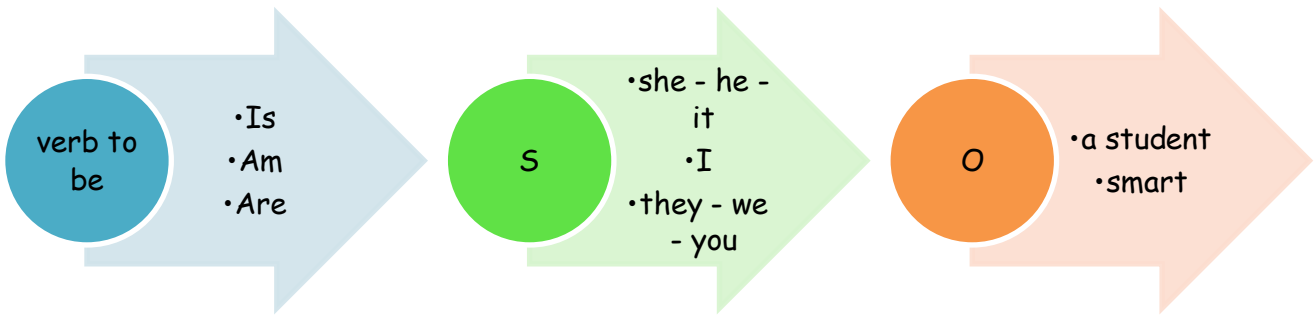
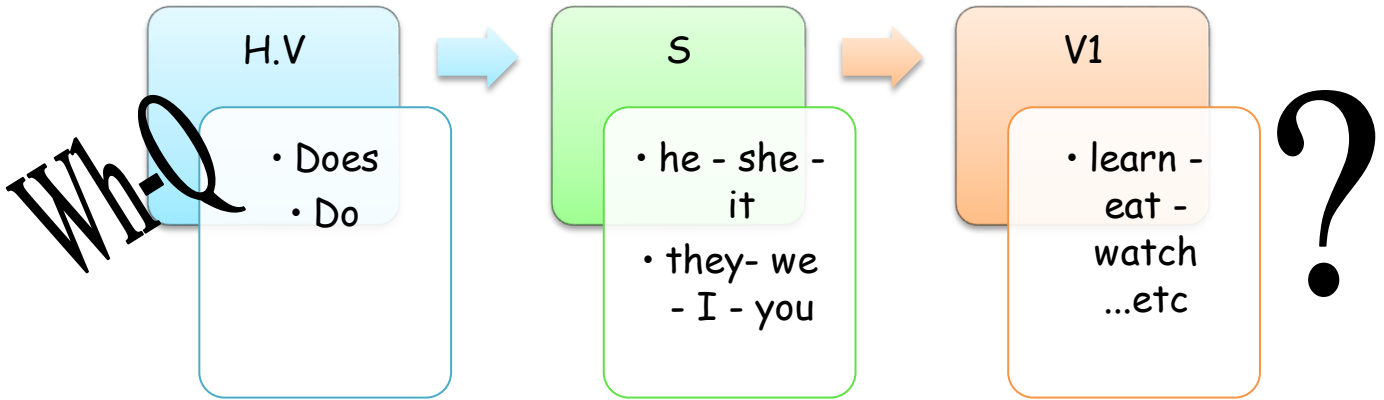
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Question

Write your own examples

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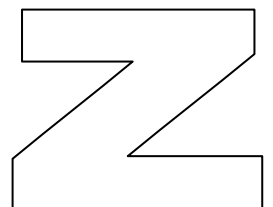
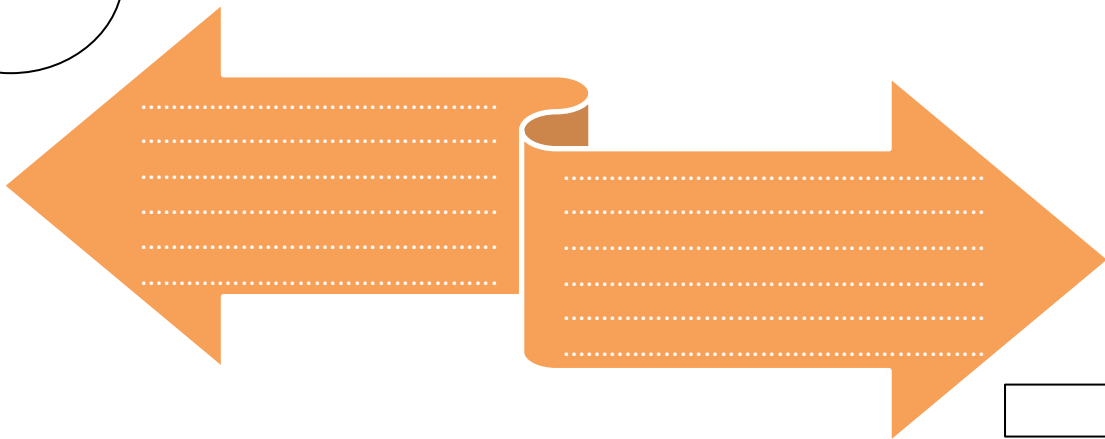
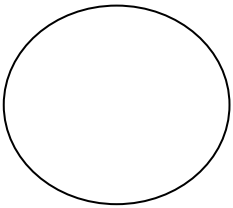
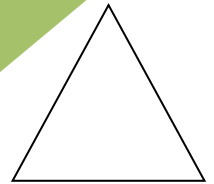
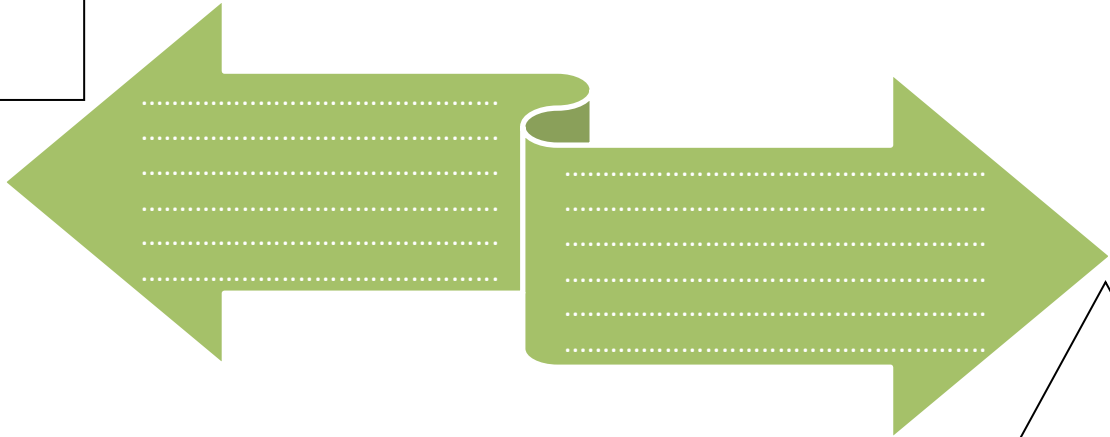
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EXERCISE

CHOOSE, THINK , WRITE



2. PRESENT CONTINUOUSE



Quick examples

- He is sleeping.
- I am visiting grandpa in the afternoon.
- You are always coming late for the meetings !

Use

1. Present actions
2. Temporary actions
3. Longer actions in progress
4. Future (personal) arrangements and plans
5. Irritation

Use 1: Present Actions

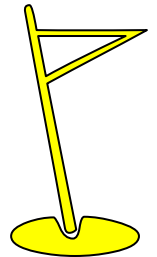
Most often, we use the Present Continuous tense to talk about actions happening at the moment of speaking.

- He is eating a dinner.
- Mary is talking with her friends.

- They are swimming in the pool.

Stative (State) Verbs

There is a certain group of verbs that usually does **not** appear in the **Continuous form**. They are called Stative (State) Verbs, and if used in the Continuous form, they have a different meaning.



I think you look pretty today.

- Opinion

I'm thinking of moving to San Francisco.

- Act of thinking

Use 2: Temporary Actions

This tense is also used for activities continuing only for a limited period of time.

- I'm riding a bike to get to work because my car is broken. **Temporary Action** (His car will soon be repaired)
- They are not talking with each other after the last argument. **Temporary Action** (They will soon make up)

- Mary is working at McDonald's. **Temporary Action** (She is working there only during the summer holidays)

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Use 3: Longer Actions in Progress

We also use the **Present Continuous** when we are in the middle of doing something time-consuming (i.e. **something that takes time to complete**). An example of such an activity is writing a book, saving money or studying for an exam.

- They are working hard to earn money.
- I am training to become a professional footballer.
- Mike is studying hard to become a doctor.
- Elizabeth is currently writing a children's book titled *I am the World*.

Use 4: Future (Personal) Arrangements and Plans

Sometimes we use the **Present Continuous** to show that something is planned and will be done in the near future.

- I 'm meeting Katie in the evening.
- He 's flying to Rome in September.
- We 're not going anywhere tomorrow.

Use 6: Irritation or Anger

And the last use of this tense is to express irritation or anger over somebody or something in the present with adverbs such as: always, continually or constantly.

- She is continually complaining about everything!
- Johny is always asking stupid questions!
- My boss is constantly criticizing me!
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Write your own examples

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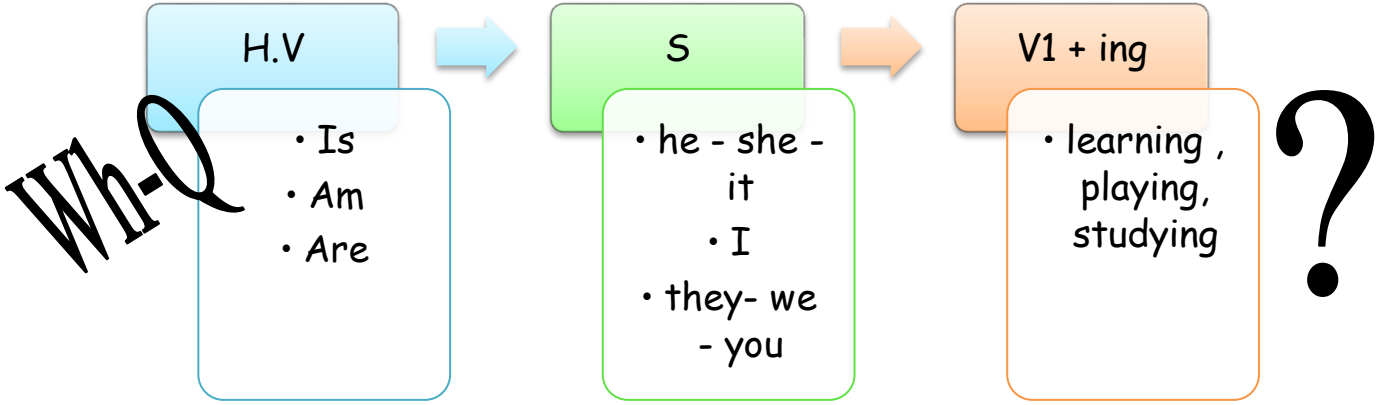
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Question



Write your own examples

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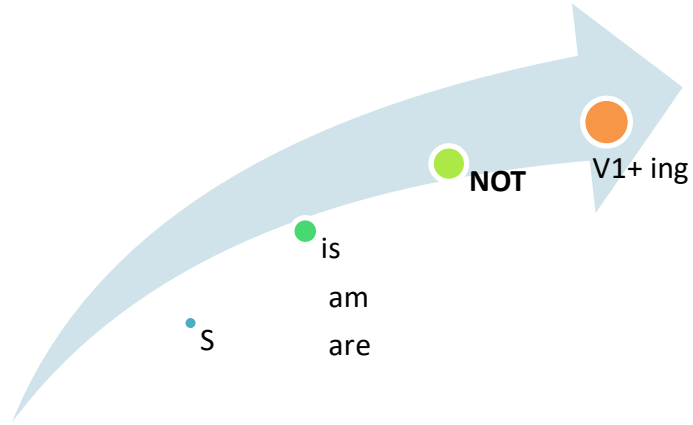
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Negative Sentences



Write your own examples

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3. PAST SIMPLE



Use

1. Events in the past that are now finished
2. Situation in the past
3. A series of actions in the past

Use 1: Past actions that are now finished

The first use of the Past Simple to express actions that happened at a specific time in the past. The actions can be short or long.

- John cut his finger last week. **short**
- I went to college 3 years ago. **long**
- He ate the dinner 1 hour ago. **short**
- I slept well last night. **long**

Use 2: Situation in the past

Another use of this tense is talk about situations in the past.

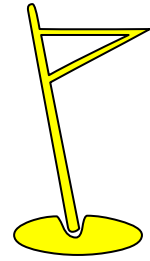
- I lived in New York for 10 years (**I don't live there anymore**).

Use 3: A series of actions in the past

The Past Simple can also be used with a few actions in the past happening one after another.

- He entered a room, lit a cigarette and smiled at the guests.

Time Expressions



Question

Who

H.V

- Did



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- he - she -
- it- I-
- they- we
- you



V1

- meet
- read
- swim



Write your own examples

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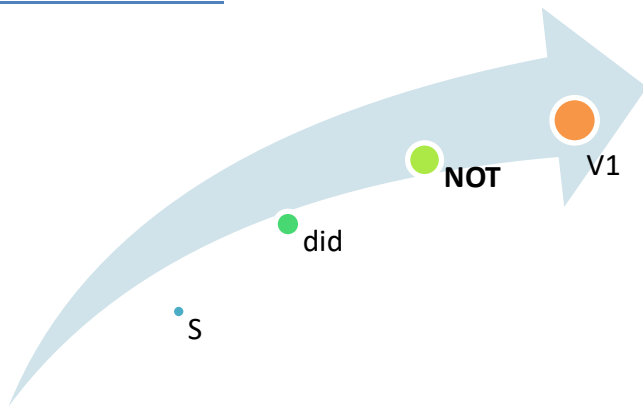
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Negative Sentence



Write your own examples

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EXERCISE

Find the fiction ;

Cut, write, think and choose.



1. This is the fiction



2. This is the fiction



3. This is the fiction

4. PAST CONTINUOUS



Quick examples

- The man was singing.
- I was resting in the garden when it started to rain.

Use

1. Duration in the past
2. Interrupted actions in progress
3. Actions in progress at the same time in the past

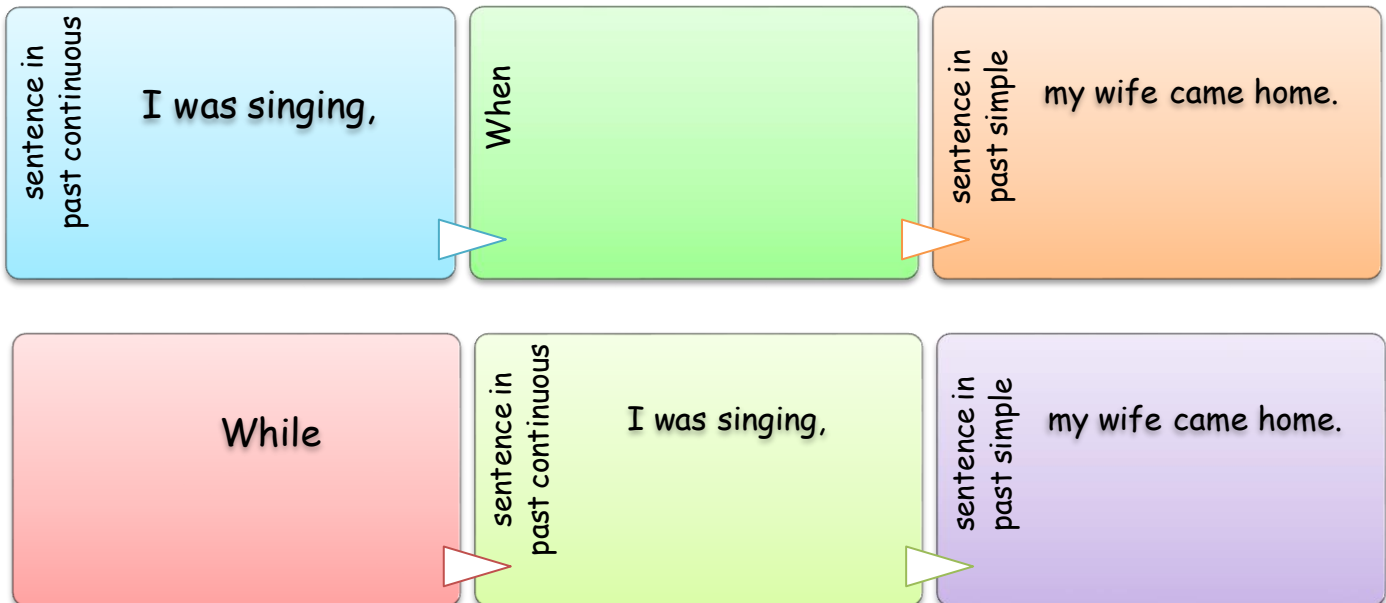
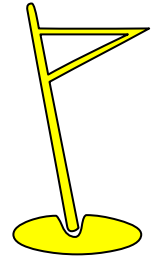
USE 1: Duration in the past

We use the Past Continuous to talk about actions or situations that lasted for some time in the past.

- I was watching TV yesterday in the evening.
- She was sleeping on the couch.
- The dog was barking.

USE 2: Interrupted actions in progress

The Past Continuous is often used when one action in progress is interrupted by another action in the past. The Past simple is used in such sentences. We usually use **when** or **while** to link these two sentences.



USE 3: Actions in progress at the same time

We also use this tense to talk about two or more activities happening at the same. We usually use when or while to link the two sentences.

- I was watching TV and Barbara was reading a book.
- The family was eating the dinner and talking.

- When Bob was painting windows, Mary was working in the kitchen.

Write your own examples

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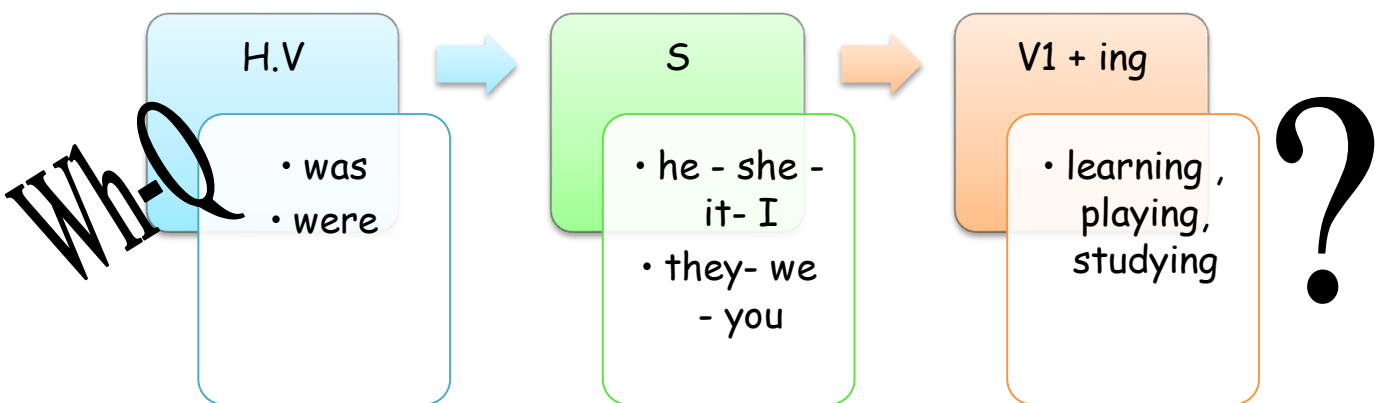
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Question



Write your own examples

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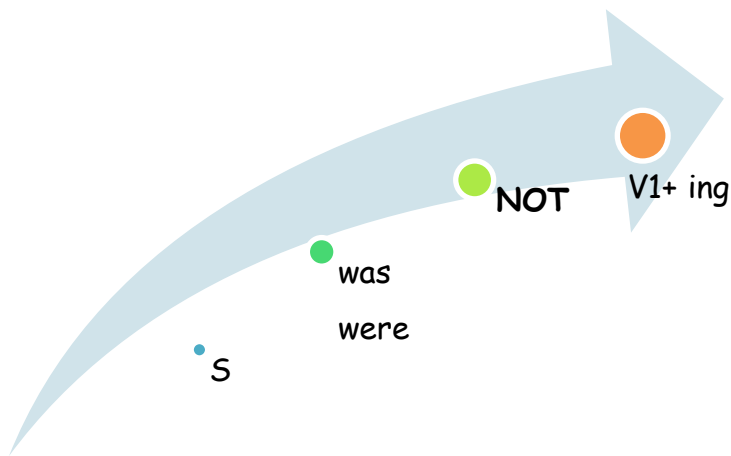
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Negative Sentences



Write your own examples

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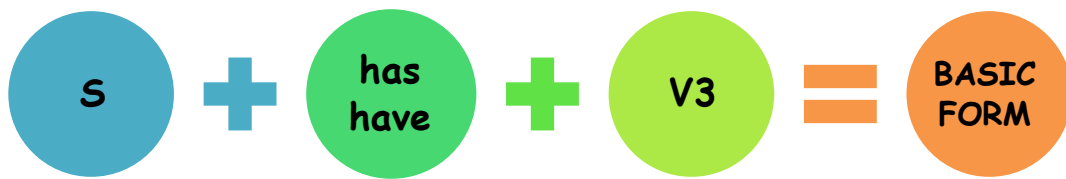
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5. PRESENT PERFECT



Quick examples

- I have read this book.
- The man has gone away.
- John has worked as a teacher for over 25 years.

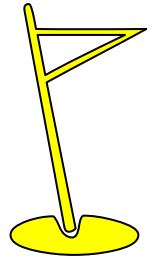
Use

- Actions which happened at an indefinite (**unknown**) time before now
- Actions in the past which have an effect on the present moment
- Actions which began in the past and continue in the present

Use 1: Indefinite time before now

Use the **Present Perfect** to talk about actions that happened at some point in the past. It does not matter when exactly they happened.

- I have already had a breakfast.
- He has been to England.



REMEMBER !!

You should not use this tense with time expressions like **yesterday, a week ago, last year, etc.**

I have seen it yesterday. ✘

We have gone to Paris last year. ✘

Use 2: Effect on the present moment

We also use this tense to when an activity has an effect on the present moment.

- He has finished his work. (so he can now rest)
- I have already eaten the dinner. (so I'm not hungry)
- He has had a car accident. (that's why he is in the hospital)

Use 3: Continuation in the present

We often use the **Present Perfect** when we want to emphasize that an event continues in the present.

- Mary has worked as a teacher for over 25 years.
- Patrick has achieved a lot in his life.

Write your own examples

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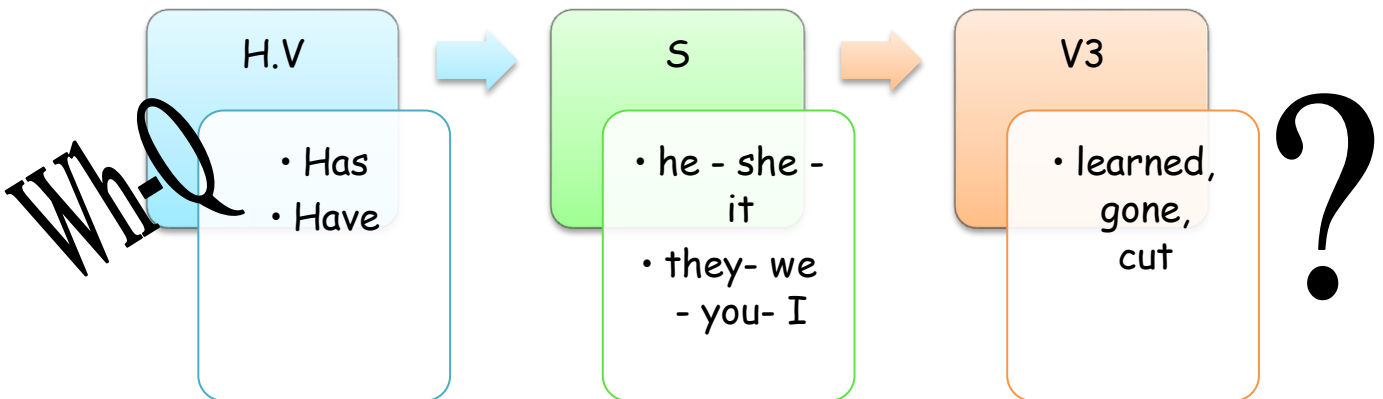
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Question



Write your own examples

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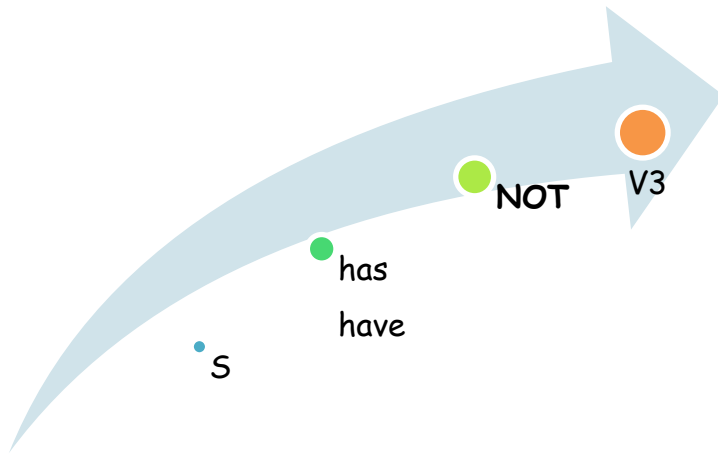
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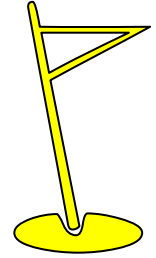
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Negative Sentences



Write your own examples

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FOR

We use **For** with a period of time.

I have lived here **for** 20 years.



SINCE

When talking about a starting point, we use **Since**.

I have lived here **since** 1960.

Write your own examples

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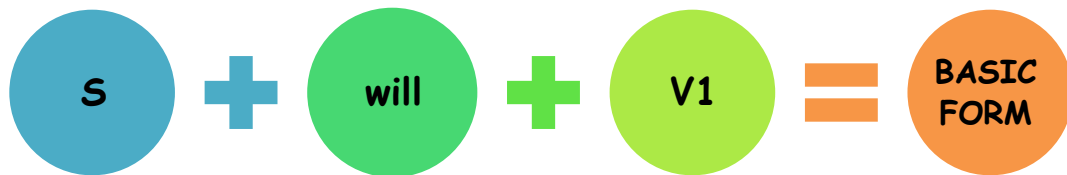
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6. FUTURE



Quick examples

- I will clean up my room. I promise!
- The telephone is ringing. I will pick it up!
- I think it will rain.
- He will stay there for hours, doing nothing.

Use

1. Promises
2. Unplanned actions
3. Predictions based on experience or intuition

GOING TO

You can also use going to to express future. We use it to express predictions based on observing the present situation

It's going to rain. Look at the clouds!



Use 1: Promises

The first use of the Future Simple to make promises.

- I promise I will buy you this toy.
- Promise you will never leave me!

Use 2: Unplanned actions

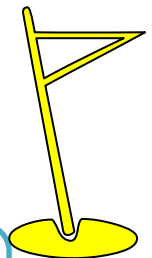
Use this tense also to talk about unplanned (spontaneous) decisions.

- Don't worry! I will help you with this problem.
- I will close the window. It's starting to rain.

Use 3: Predictions

We often use the Future Simple when making a prediction based on experience or intuition.

- It will rain in a moment.



REMEMBER

- you should never use will to say what somebody has already arranged or decided to do in the future

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- Mike **is moving** to New Jersey next month.

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- Mike **will move** to New Jersey next month.

Write your own examples

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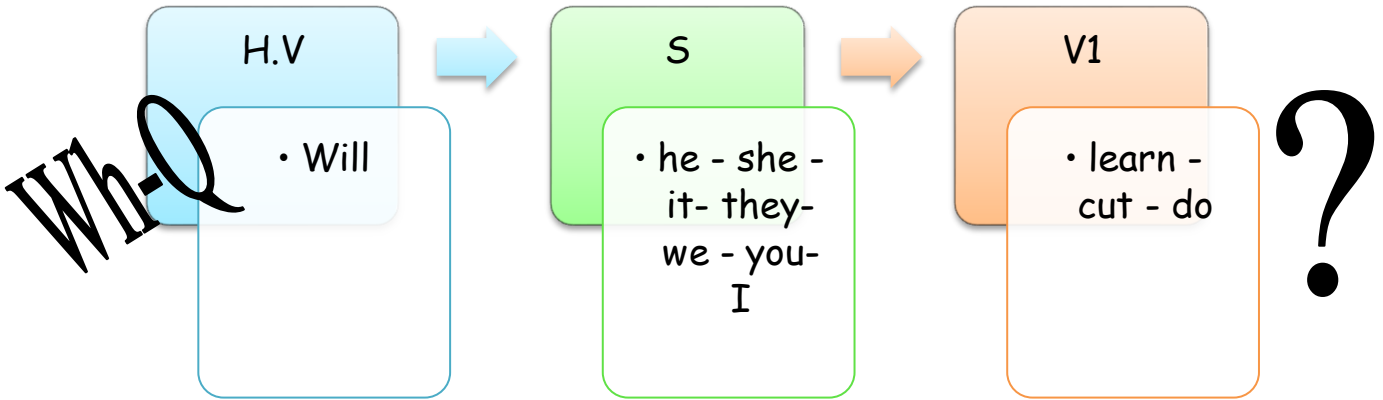
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REMEMBER !!

We often use will with;

probably, most likely	I'll probably drop in on uncle.
I think	This gift is great. I think she'll love it.
I'm sure	It's not going to be boring there. I'm sure there will be a lot of girls at your age.
I wonder (if ...)	It's a bit late. I wonder if he'll come.
I expect	I haven't seen Matthew today. I expect he'll call today.

Question



Write your own examples

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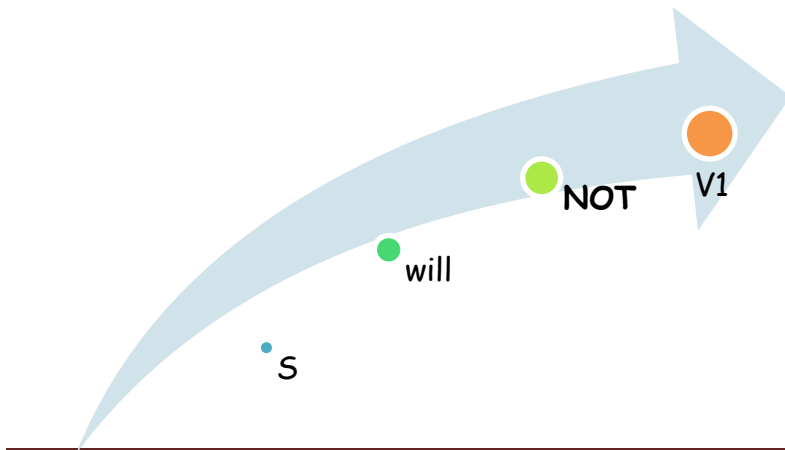
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Negative Sentences



Write your own examples

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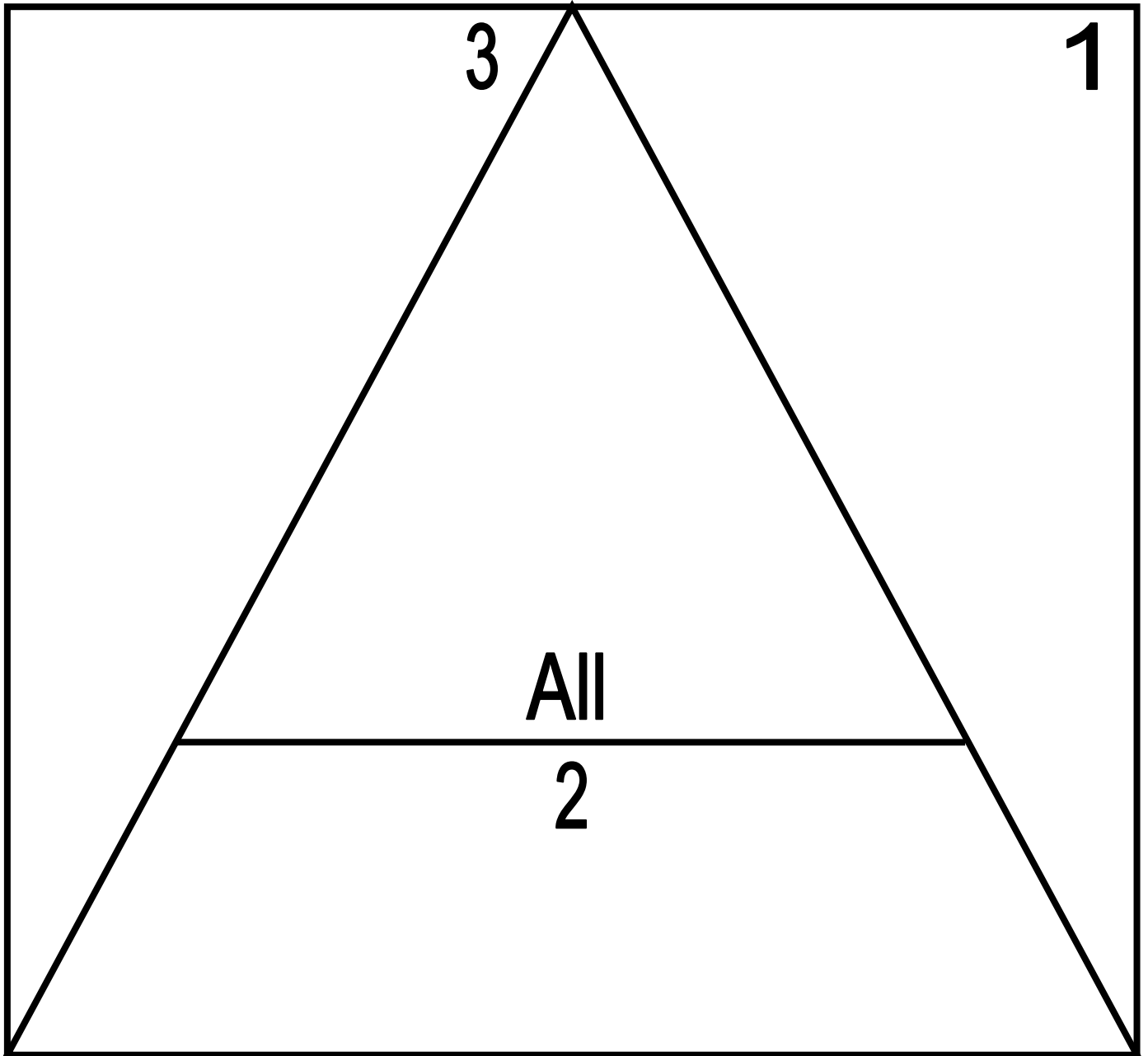
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EXERCISE

Share your plans or your unplanned actions.



Write down the most common plans.

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EXERCISE

(Find someone who)
Ask a question, check it and correct it.



last week



2 years



Now

Paris



see you soon



It's goodbye

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Your friend

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Your friend

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Your friend