

Time Words in English

Time words help us know when an action happens. Different tenses usually use different time expressions.

1. Present Simple: We use the Present Simple for routines, habits, and facts.

Time Word

every day	often
every morning	sometimes
every week	rarely
always	never
usually	on Mondays

Examples

- ✓ I always drink coffee.
- ✓ She studies every afternoon.

2. Present Continuous: We use the Present Continuous for actions happening now or around this time.

Time Words

now	this week
right now	this month
at the moment	currently
today	

Examples

- ✓ I am studying now.
- ✓ They are working at the moment.

3. Past Simple: We use the Past Simple for finished actions in the past.

Time Words

yesterday	ago
last night	in 2020
last week/month/last year	

Examples

- ✓ I visited my grandmother yesterday.
- ✓ We watched a movie last night.

4. Present Perfect: We use the Present Perfect for experiences or actions that happened at an unspecified time or continue until now.

Time Words

already
yet
just
ever
never
recently
lately
so far
since
for

Examples

- ✓ I have already finished my homework.
- ✓ Have you ever been to Bogotá?

Exercise 1 – Match the time expression with the correct tense.

every day → _____

yesterday → _____

now → _____

already → _____

at the moment → _____

last year → _____

Exercise 2 – Choose the Correct Time Word

- I play tennis _____.

yesterday

every Saturday

now

- She is studying _____.

last week

at the moment

ago

- We visited Cartagena _____.

yesterday

already

every day

always

- My father goes to work _____.

every morning

yesterday

just

Exercise 3 – Complete the Sentences

Word Bank: every day • yesterday • now • already • since • at the moment • last week • for • just • always

I brush my teeth _____.

She is sleeping _____.

We went to the beach _____.

They have _____ finished the project.

He has lived here _____ 2018.

My mother is cooking _____.

I _____ help my friends.

We have known each other _____ five years.

I have _____ arrived home.

My teacher gave us homework _____.

Exercise 4 – Circle the Correct Tense

a) I study every day.

b) I am studying every day.

a) She is cooking now.

b) She cooked now.

a) We visited our grandparents yesterday.

b) We have visited our grandparents yesterday.

a) Have you ever eaten sushi?

b) Did you ever eaten sushi?

a) He has lived here since 2022.

b) He lived here since 2022.

a) They are playing football at the moment.

b) They play football at the moment.