

Present and Past tenses

Mrs Bryson wants her family to help her make dinner, but everyone has an excuse! With a partner, decide which is the best / worst excuse. Do you ever help out at home?



- 1 Don't ask me - I **help** with dinner nearly every evening!
- 2 **Have** you ever **tried** my cooking? It's terrible!
- 3 I'm **doing** my homework at the moment.
- 4 I've **been working** since 7:00. I need a rest!
- 5 I've already **had** a sandwich, so I'm not hungry.
- 6 I **don't live** here - I'm just visiting!

Complete gaps 1-4 in the table with the tenses in the box. Then match uses A-F to examples 1-6 in Activity 1.

present continuous present simple present perfect (x2)

Present perfect

Present tense review	
1 _____	A _____ unchanging or permanent present situations
	B _____ regular or repeated actions
2 _____	C _____ changing or temporary present situations
3 _____	D _____ past actions or situations that don't specify a time
	E _____ past actions with a present result
4 _____	F _____ actions that started in the past and continue into the present

3. Write the correct present form of the verbs in bold. Have you ever used excuses like these?

1 A: At last, you _____ (**arrive**)! I _____ (**wait**) here all morning!

B: Sorry I _____ (**be**) late. I overslept.

2 **A:** _____ (you / do) anything at the moment? Can you help me tidy up?

B: E r . . . we _____ (do) a project for school. Sorry, it _____ (be) really important.

3 **A:** Carla, hurry up! You _____ (get) ready for hours!

B: I _____ (come)! It _____ (take) effort to look this good, you know.

4. Watch the video about present perfect versus simple past tenses. Classify the uses into the grammar chart.

Unfinished period of time experiences/ achievements stories or anecdotes

Finished periods of time specific time in the past actions stills on progress

Simple past	Present perfect

Complete each sentence using the correct form (past simple or present perfect simple) of the verb in brackets. Then choose the most suitable time expression.

- _____ (you/see) the new *Star Wars* film *still/yet*?
- Yes, I _____ (see) it a couple of days *ago/before*.
- I _____ (read) books like that *before/ever*, and I find them really scary.
- I *never/still* _____ (not/finish) reading it, but I've only got a few pages left.
- How long *ago/before* _____ (you/visit) the Cape Canaveral space centre?
- I _____ (not/be) there *ever/yet* – I'm going next week.
- I *ever/never* _____ (like) science fiction films until last year.
- I *ever/still* _____ (not/seen) a really good science fiction film.

6. Write excuses for people in the following situations! Include at least four of the words in the list. The words can be used more than once.

ago already for last since then

1 you don't want to go out with your friends tonight

Sorry, but I've already got plans. I've promised to babysit ages ago.

2 you were late home last night

3 you missed your last English lesson

4 you forgot it was your friend's birthday yesterday

7. Answer the following personal questions.

a) How long have you lived at your home?

b) How many series or movies have you seen during the lockdown? Which was the last one?

c) Which touristic places have you been to? Which was your favourite trip?

d) What's the craziest thing you have ever done? When did you do it?