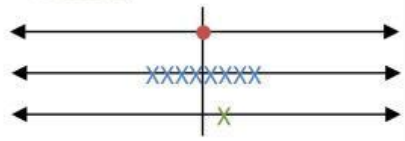
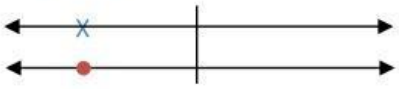
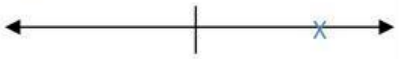
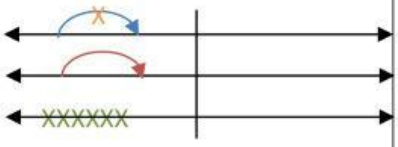
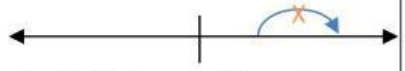
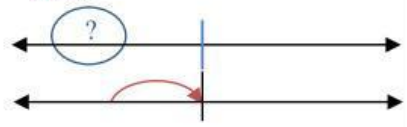
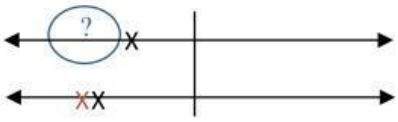
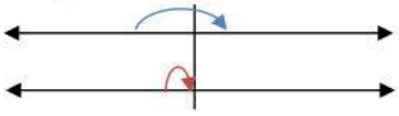
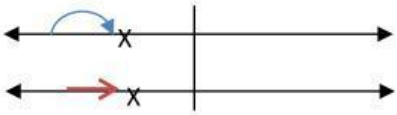
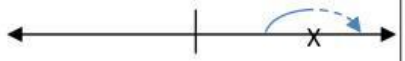
Overview of English Verbs Tenses & Aspects

	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	• use for facts, habits/routines, scheduled future actions (with time reference)  • use the **base form** of the verb for all subjects except 3° person singular (*he / she / it*) which uses the **base form + –*s*** *I **live** in Argentina.* *We **walk** to school every day.* *The plane **arrives** at 6 p.m.*	• use for completed actions with clear beginning and end points  • for regular verbs, use the **base form + –*ed*** for all subjects • irregular verb forms must be memorized *I called you last night.* *Lincoln **was** president during the Civil War.*	• use for actions (plans, predictions, promises) that will occur in the future  • use ***will*** **+ base form** of the verb for all subjects OR • use the correct form of ***be*** **in present tense + *going to* + base form** of verb *I **will study** geology at university.* *Brazil **is going to win** the World Cup.*
CONTINUOUS	• use for actions in progress or actions that will occur in the near future, or to show irritation caused by a repeated action • use the correct form of ***be*** **in present tense + –ing form** of verb *The children **are watching** TV right now.* *I **'m going** to the gym after work.* *He **is** always **complaining**.*	• use for past actions that were interrupted, to show prolonged past actions or a repeated past action without time reference  • use the correct form of ***be*** **in past tense + –ing form** of verb *We **were sleeping** when the phone rang.* *My head **was aching**.* *They **were** always **arguing**.*	• use for future actions that will be in progress when another action occurs  • for all subjects, use ***will be*** **+ –ing form** of verb OR • use the correct form of ***be*** **in present tense + *going to be* + –ing form** of verb *I **will be waiting** when your bus arrives.* *He **is going to be studying** at 8 p.m.* * Note: for many tenses, the interruption may simply be a reference to time.
PERFECT	• use for completed action at an indefinite time in the past *that has some connection to the present* or action that began in the past and continues to the present  • use ***have*** (or ***has*** for 3° person singular) **+ participle** *She **has been** to Italy three times.* *I **have had** a cold for two weeks.*	• use for completed action at an indefinite time in past *that has some connection to another action in past* or completed action that occurred before another action in past  • use ***had*** **+ participle** for all subjects *Bob **had** already **eaten** when we arrived.* *She **had** just **finished** the exam when the bell rang.*	• use for action in the future that will be completed before some other action/time in the future • use ***will have*** **+ participle** for all subjects *By next December, she **will have graduated**.* *On the 15th, I **will have finished** the class.*
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	• use for action that began in the past and continues to the present or to emphasize that an action is recent  • use ***have*** (or ***has*** for 3° person singular) ***been*** **+ –ing form** of verb *They **have been talking** on the phone for over two hours.* *He **has been exercising** lately.*	• use for action in the past that continued until another action in the past and to show cause  • use ***had been*** **+ –ing form** for all subjects *Janet **had been working** there almost a year when they fired her.* *He **had been partying** all night, so he fell asleep in class.*	• use for a future action that will be in progress when another action occurs (or time is referenced)  • use ***will have been*** **+ –ing form** of verb for all subjects *By 3035, aliens **will have been ruling** the planet for 50 years.* *I **will have been studying** for three hours by the time you arrive.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS