

4. English Tenses Active

The category of tense denotes the relation of the action either to the moment of speaking or to some definite moment in the past or future. The category of tense and the category of aspect are intermingled. The category of aspect shows the way in which the action develops, whether it is in progress or completed, etc. There are four groups of tenses: *Simple*, *Continuous*, *Perfect*, *Perfect Continuous*. The *Simple* form has no aspect characteristics whatever, the *Continuous*, *Perfect* and *Perfect Continuous* forms denote both time and aspect relations.

SIMPLE (Indefinite)

shows an action as a fact
(customary, repeated)

- ⇒ **PRESENT**
- ⇒ **PAST**
- ⇒ **FUTURE**

verb

CONTINUOUS

shows an action as a process

- ⇒ **PRESENT**
- ⇒ **PAST**
- ⇒ **FUTURE**

to be + -ing

PERFECT

shows an action completed
before a definite moment,
connected with it

- ⇒ **PRESENT**
- ⇒ **PAST**
- ⇒ **FUTURE**

to have + Past Participle

PERFECT CONTINUOUS

shows an action in progress,
whose duration before
a definite moment is expressed

- ⇒ **PRESENT**
- ⇒ **PAST**
- ⇒ **FUTURE**

to have been + -ing