

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