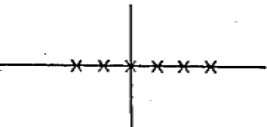
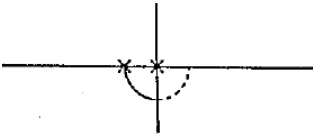

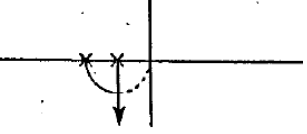

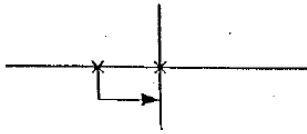



Help Centres – English Support



Verb Tense Overview

Tense	Affirmative/Negative/Question	Use	Signal Words
Simple Present 	A: He speaks quickly. N: He does not speak. Q: Does he speak?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - action in the present, express habitual or everyday activities - facts, general truths - action set by a timetable or schedule 	always, never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually, rarely, occasionally,
Present Continuous 	A: He is speaking right now. N: He is not speaking. Q: Is he speaking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - action taking place at the moment of speaking - action arranged for the future (agenda future) - express something annoying (She is always...) 	at the moment, Listen!, Look!, now, right now, always, forever, constantly
Simple Past 	A: He spoke 2 minutes ago. N: He did not speak. Q: Did he speak?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - action in the past - actions taking place one after another in the past 	yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday

<p>Past Continuous</p> 	<p>A: He was speaking when the bell rang. N: He was not speaking. Q: Was he speaking?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - action was happening when another action occurred - actions taking place at the same time in the past - action in the past that is interrupted by another action 	<p>when, while</p>
<p>Present Perfect</p> 	<p>A: He has spoken already. N: He has not spoken. Q: Has he spoken?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emphasizing the result (exact time not mentioned) - action that began in the past and continues to the present - action that stopped recently 	<p>since, for, just, ever, never, yet, still, already, so far, till now, up to now, recently</p>
<p>Present Perfect Continuous</p> 	<p>A: He has been speaking Spanish for two years. N: He has not been speaking. Q: Has he been speaking?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emphasizing the duration of an activity (how long) - action is in progress immediately before now or up to now 	<p>for, since, all day, all morning, all week, how long?</p>
<p>Past Perfect</p> 	<p>A: He had spoken to the teacher before class. N: He had not spoken. Q: Had he spoken?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - action that was finished before another in the past 	<p>already, just, before, for</p>

Past Perfect Continuous 	A: He had been speaking to me when she interrupted him. N: He had not been speaking. Q: Had he been speaking?	- action that was happening before another in the past (duration)	for, since, how long
Simple Future (will) 	A: He will speak to you tomorrow. N: He will not speak. Q: Will he speak?	- action in the future - spontaneous decision - possibility about the future	in a year, next, tomorrow, I think, probably, perhaps
Simple Future (going to) 	A: He is going to speak to his teacher next week. N: He is not going to speak. Q: Is he going to speak?	- decision made for the future - conclusion about the future	in one year, next week, tomorrow
Future Continuous 	A: He will be speaking in class this afternoon. N: He will not be speaking. Q: Will he be speaking?	- action that is going on at a certain time in the future	in one year, next week, tomorrow
Future Perfect 	A: He will have spoken to the principle by Monday. N: He will not have spoken. Q: Will he have spoken?	- action that will be finished at a certain time in the future	by Monday, in a week
Future Perfect Continuous 	A: By 10 o'clock, he will have been speaking for two hours. N: He will not have been speaking. Q: Will he have been speaking?	- action taking place before a certain time in the future	for ..., the last couple of hours, all day long