Help Centres - English Support



Simple and Continuous Verb Tenses

Tense	Affirmative/Negative/Question	Use	Signal Words
Simple Present	A: He speaks quickly. N: He does not speak. Q: Does he speak?	 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?	- 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?	- action in the past - actions taking place one after another in the past	yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday

Tense	Affirmative/Negative/Question	Use	Signal Words
Past Continuous	A: He was speaking when the bell rang. N: He was not speaking. Q: Was he speaking?	 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 	when, while
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 futureconclusion about the future	in one year, next week, tomorrow
Simple Future (will)	A: He will speak to his teacher next week. N: He will not speak. Q: Will he speak?	decision made for the futureconclusion 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