

past

Describes an action which is now complete.

I played tennis.

simple

present

Describes a repeated action.

I play tennis.

Describes an action which happened in the past over a length of time.

I was playing tennis.

continuous

future

Describes an action which is planned to take place in the future.

I will play tennis.

Describes an action that is happening now.

I am playing tennis.

Describes an action that had happened before another action took place.

I had played tennis.

perfect

Describes an action that has happened.

I have played tennis.

Describes an action which will be finished before another action takes place.

I will have played tennis.

perfect
continuous

Describes an action that had been happening before another action.

I had been playing tennis.

Describes an action that has started in the past and is continuing.

I have been playing tennis.

Describes an action which happens over time before another future action takes place.

I will have been playing tennis.

Verb Tenses

simple

past

Describes an action that is now complete.

I	played	tennis.
You		
We		
They		
He		
She		
It		

present

Describes a repeated action.

I	play	tennis.
You		
We		
They		
He	plays	
She		
It		

future

Describes an action that is planned to take place in the future.

I	will play	tennis.
You		
We		
They		
He		
She		
It		

continuous

past

Describes an action that happened in the past over a length of time.

I He She It	was playing	tennis.
You We They	were playing	

present

Describes an action that is happening now.

I	am playing	tennis.
You We They	are playing	
He She It	is playing	

future

Describes an action that will be happening for a length of time.

I You We They He She It	will be playing	tennis.
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perfect

past

Describes an action that had happened before another action took place.

I		
You		
We		
They	had played	tennis.
He		
She		
It		

present

Describes an action that has happened.

I		
You	have played	
We		
They		tennis.
He		
She	has played	
It		

future

Describes an action that will be finished before another action takes place.

I		
You		
We		
They	will have played	tennis.
He		
She		
It		

perfect continuous

past

Describes an action that had been happening before another action.

I
You
We
They
He
She
It

had been playing

tennis.

present

Describes an action that has started in the past and is continuing.

I
You
We
They
He
She
It

have been playing

has been playing

tennis.

future

Describes an action that happens over time before another future action takes place.

I
You
We
They
He
She
It

will have been playing

tennis.