

Before you start

1 Review these intermediate grammar points and check you know them.

Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs are *be*, *have* and *do*.

We use them with main verbs to form tenses, questions and negatives. We don't use them with modal verbs:

✗ *Do we must pay excess baggage on this?*

Forming present and past simple tenses

1 For the present simple this is the same as the infinitive, except after *he*, *she* or *it*:

I read → *he reads* *they carry* → *it carries*

2 For the past simple we add *-ed* to the infinitive (regular verbs). The form is the same for all persons except with *be*: *I/he/she/it was*, *we/you/they were*

3 We form the negative and questions of the present and past simple with the auxiliary *do*:
Japanese cooking doesn't use a lot of dairy food.

Do interest rates usually go up in order to reduce inflation?

'Did you see anything suspicious?' 'No, I didn't see anything.'

Spelling rules of present simple *-s* endings ► page 366 Past tense *-ed* endings ► page 367

Forming other tenses

1 present continuous	<i>am/is/are + -ing</i> form of main verb	<i>James and Sally are spending</i> the evening together. <i>What are</i> the children <i>doing</i> ?
past continuous	<i>was/were + -ing</i> form of main verb	<i>What were</i> the children <i>doing</i> while you <i>were travelling</i> ? <i>It wasn't raining</i> when we woke up this morning.
present perfect simple	<i>has/have + past participle</i> , e.g. <i>walked, had, done</i>	The printers <i>haven't finished</i> the new brochure yet. There <i>has been</i> a decline in applicants to the profession.
present perfect continuous	<i>has/have been + -ing</i> form of main verb	Bob Geldof <i>has been doing</i> a lot of work for charities since the mid-eighties. How long <i>have you been studying</i> architecture?
past perfect	<i>had + past participle</i>	By the end of the fundraising week we <i>had raised</i> \$5,000. <i>Had you already seen</i> that film?
past perfect continuous	<i>had been + -ing</i> form of main verb	The lake was near bursting point as it <i>had been raining</i> heavily for weeks.

2 Be careful not to omit *have* with the present perfect:

✗ *I never been to Madame Tussaud's.* ✓ *I've never been to Madame Tussaud's.*

3 *Used to* is followed by an infinitive. Notice the possible spellings in questions and negatives:

It used to take me over an hour to get to work. Did you use(d) to get free milk at school?
Supermarkets *didn't use(d) to be open on Sundays in the UK.*

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