

# PRESENT AND PAST

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# SIMPLE PRESENT



The simple present expresses an action in the present taking place once, never or several times. It is also used for actions that take place one after another and for actions that are set by a timetable or schedule. The simple present also expresses a daily routine.

# Form - BE

Am with the personal pronoun I



I



**Affirmative**

I am



**Negative**

I am not



**Question**

Am I?

Is with the personal pronouns he, she or it (or with the singular form of nouns)



He / She / It



**Affirmative**

He is



**Negative**

He is not



**Question**

Is He?

Are with the personal pronouns we, you or they (or with the plural form of nouns)



You / They / We



**Affirmative**

You are



**Negative**

You are not



**Question**

Are you?

# Form - HAVE

Has with the personal pronouns he, she, it (or with the singular form of nouns)

He / She / It

**Affirmative**

She has

**Negative**

She has not

**Question**

Has she?

Have with the personal pronouns I, you, we and they (or with the plural form of nouns)

I / You / They / We

**Affirmative**

You have

**Negative**

You have not

**Question**

Have you?

# Form - ALL OTHER VERBS

The verb + s with the personal pronouns he, she, it (or with the singular form of nouns)

He / She / It

**Affirmative**

It plays

**Negative**

It does not play

**Question**

Does it play?

The infinite verb with the personal pronouns I, you, we and they (or with the plural form of nouns)

I / You / They / We

**Affirmative**

They play

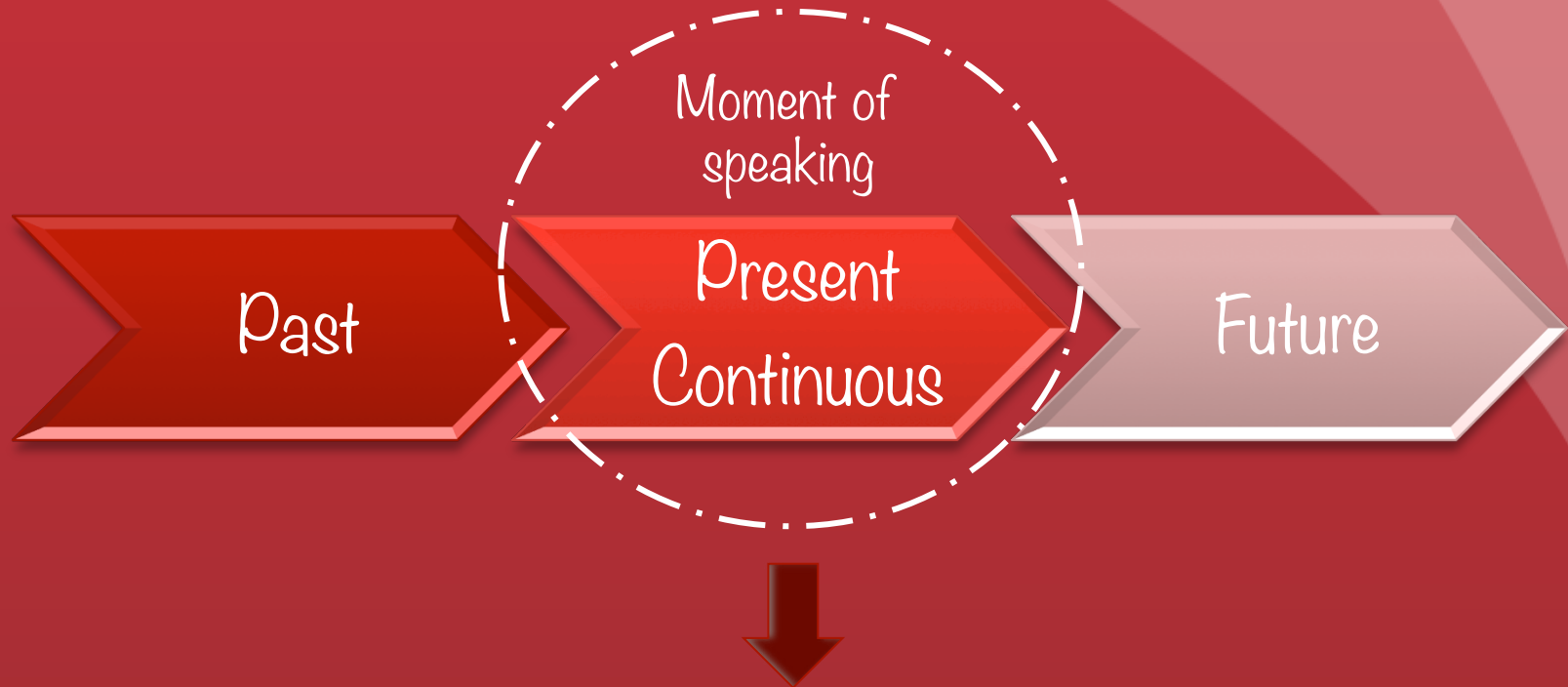
**Negative**

They do not play

**Question**

Do they play?

# PRESENT CONTINUOUS



The present progressive is used for actions going on in the moment of speaking and for actions taking place only for a short period of time. It is also used to express development and actions that are arranged for the near future.

Use a form of to be and the infinite verb plus -ing.

Am with the personal pronoun I

I

**Affirmative**  
I am playing

**Negative**  
I am not playing

**Question**  
Am I playing?

Is with the personal pronouns he, she or it (or the singular form of nouns)

He / She / It

**Affirmative**  
He is playing

**Negative**  
He is not playing

**Question**  
Is he playing?

Are with the personal pronouns you, we, they (or the plural form of nouns)

You / They / We

**Affirmative**  
You are playing

**Negative**  
You are not playing

**Question**  
Are you playing?

# Exceptions in Spelling

A single, silent e at the end of the word is dropped before ing.

Example: I am coming home.

But: ee at the end of the word is not changed example: agree - agreeing



The final consonant after a short, stressed vowel is doubled before ing.

Example: sit - sitting I am sitting on the sofa.

The letter l as final consonant after a vowel is always doubled before ing.

Example: travel - travelling I am travelling around.

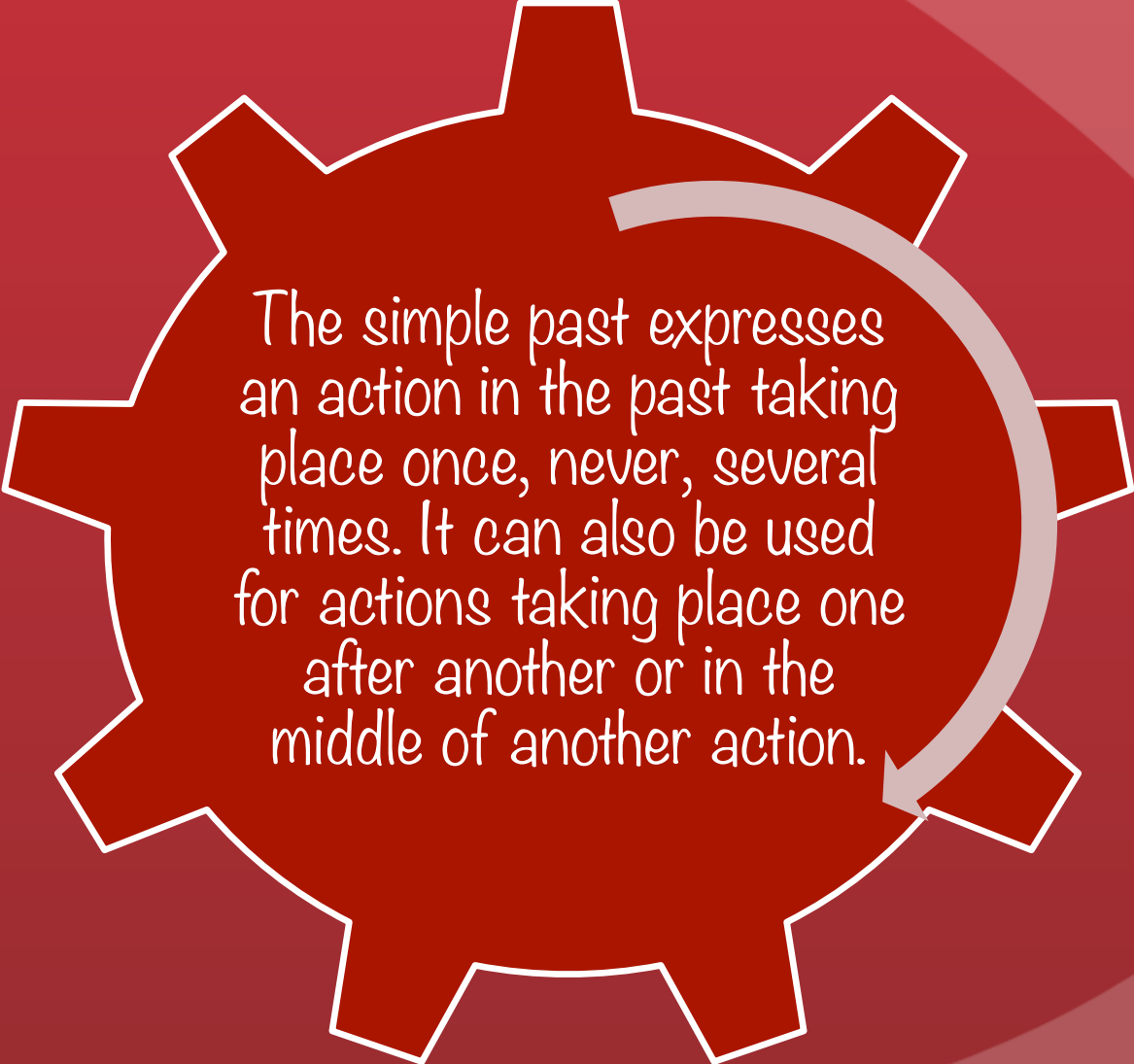


An ie at the end of a word becomes y before ing.

Example: lie - lying You are lying in bed.



# SIMPLE PAST



The simple past expresses an action in the past taking place once, never, several times. It can also be used for actions taking place one after another or in the middle of another action.

# Form of Simple Past

For irregular verbs, use the past form (see list of irregular verbs, 2nd column). For regular verbs, just add “ed”.

I / He /  
She / It /  
You /  
They / We

- **Affirmative**
- You Spoke
- **Negative**
- You did not speak
- **Question**
- Did you speak?

# Exceptions in Spelling when adding 'ed'

## Exceptions

After a final e only add d

Final consonant after a short, stressed vowel or l as final consonant after a vowel is doubled

final y after a consonant becomes i

## Example

Love - Loved

Admit - Admitted

Hurry - Hurried

# Use of Simple Past


Action in the past taking place once, never or several times

Example: He visited his parents every weekend.



Actions in the past taking place one after the other

Example: He came in, took off his coat and sat down.



Action in the past taking place in the middle of another action

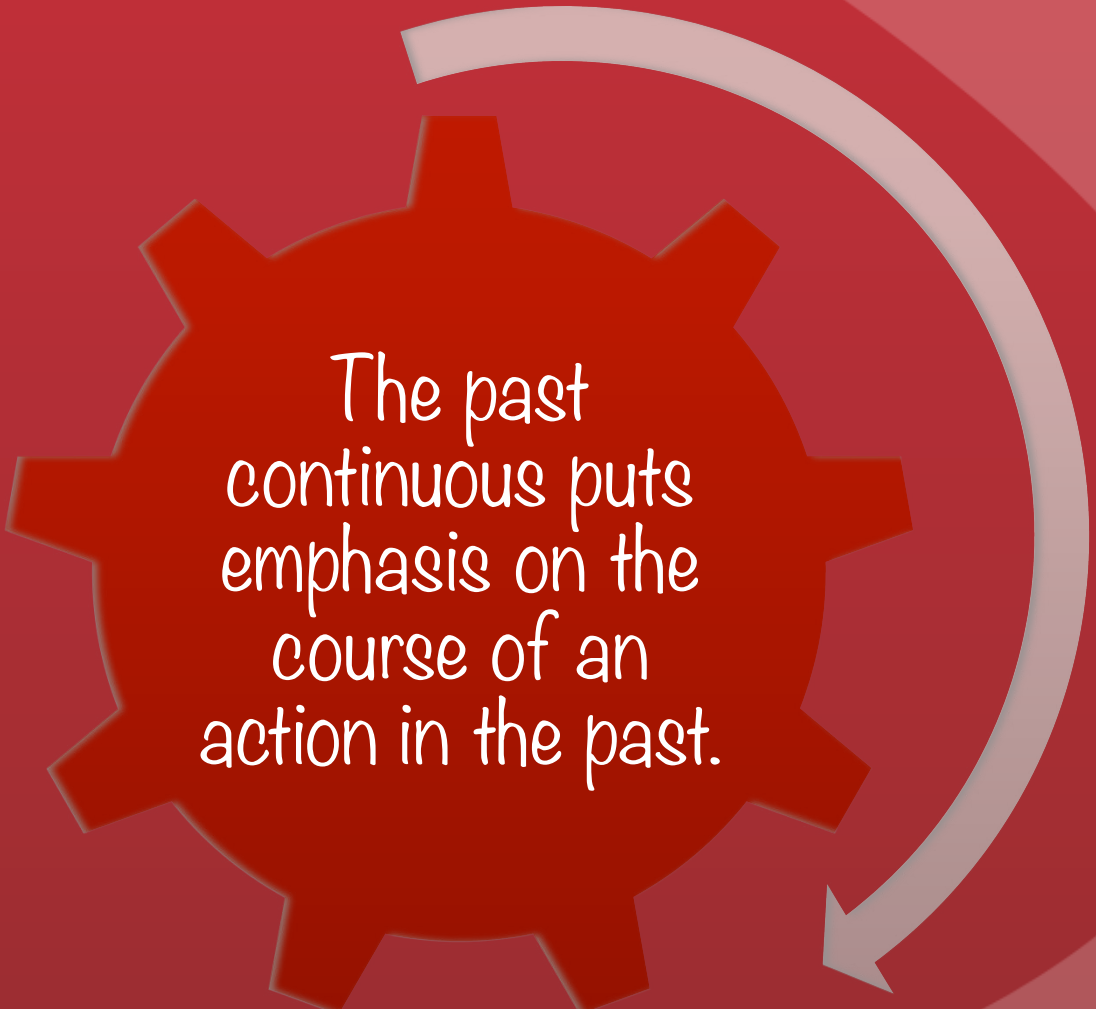
Example: When I was having breakfast, the phone suddenly rang.



if sentences type II (If I talked, ...)

Example: If I had a lot of money, I would share it with you.

# PAST CONTINUOUS



The past continuous puts emphasis on the course of an action in the past.

# Form

I / He / She / It

**Affirmative**

I was speaking

**Negative**

I was not speaking

**Question**

Was I speaking?

You / They / We

**Affirmative**

We were speaking

**Negative**

We were not speaking

**Question**

Were we speaking?

# Exceptions in Spelling

## Exceptions

final e is dropped (but: ee is not changed)

after a short, stressed vowel, the final consonant is doubled

l as final consonant after a vowel is doubled (in British English)

final ie becomes y

## Example

Come - Coming  
(But: agree - agreeing)

Sit - Sitting


Travel - travelling

Lie - Lying

# Use of Past Continuous

Two actions happening at the same time (in the past)

Example: While she was preparing dinner, he was washing the dishes.



Action going on at a certain time in the past

Example: When I was having breakfast, the phone suddenly rang.



Puts emphasis on the course of an action in the past

Example: He was playing football.