

A Comparison of English Tenses

Tense	Past	Present	Future	
Simple	Past Perfect I <u>drove</u> to his house. She <u>drove</u> to his house. Did they <u>drive</u> to his house? We <u>did</u> not <u>drive</u> to his house. You <u>didn't</u> <u>drive</u> to his house. 1. an action that took place at a particular point in the past 2. a series of actions in the past 3. a habitual (navyklá) or repeated action in the past (some adverbs are used only in past tenses: yesterday, last summer, ago.....) 	Present Perfect I <u>have driven</u> to his house. She <u>has driven</u> to his house. Have they <u>driven</u> to his house? We <u>have</u> not <u>driven</u> to his house. You <u>haven't</u> <u>driven</u> to his house. 1. habitual (navyklé) or repeated actions at present 2. universal statements (Summer follows spring.) 3. actions in progress with verbs: see, hear, understand, ... 4. 'the present period' (My father works in a bank.) 5. future, especially a fixed arrangement of things 6. past actions to make them more vivid (historický prezens) 	Future Perfect I <u>will have driven</u> there by 6 o'clock. She <u>will have driven</u> there by 6 o'clock. Will they <u>have driven</u> there by 6 o'clock? We <u>will not have driven</u> there by 6 o'clock. You <u>won't have driven</u> there by 6 o'clock. 1. a finished action which precedes (předchází) a point in the future 2. a prediction about the result (výsledek) of a past action The guests <u>will have arrived</u> by 10 o'clock.	I <u>will drive</u> to his house. She <u>will drive</u> to his house. Will they <u>drive</u> to his house? We <u>will not drive</u> to his house. You <u>won't drive</u> to his house. 1. a prediction: It will rain tomorrow 2. to express hopes and expectations: I hope you'll enjoy it Will/ Shall as a modal verb expressions: 1. promises: I'll buy you a bicycle. 2. requests (požadavky): Will you open the window? 3. offers (nabídky): Shall I get your coat? 4. suggestions (návrhy): Shall we go for a swim tomorrow?
	Continuous I <u>had been driving</u> all night. She <u>had been driving</u> all night. Had they <u>been driving</u> all night? We <u>had not been driving</u> all night. You <u>hadn't been driving</u> all night. 1. actions in progress in the past 2. a past action in progress while another past action took place 3. parallel actions 4. a past action that was in progress between two time limits 	I <u>was driving</u> all night. She <u>was driving</u> all night. Were they <u>driving</u> all night? We <u>were</u> not <u>driving</u> all night. You <u>weren't</u> <u>driving</u> all night. 1. an emotionally coloured action in the past with consequences at the present 2. an action which has taken a long time and is still in progress at the present time	I <u>am driving</u> right now. She <u>is driving</u> right now. Are they <u>driving</u> right now? We <u>are</u> not <u>driving</u> right now. You <u>aren't</u> <u>driving</u> right now. 1. a momentary action in progress 2. temporary (dočasně) situations 3. near future (decided) 4. emotional repeated actions (with always): She <u>is always helping</u> people.	I <u>will be driving</u> tomorrow. She <u>will be driving</u> tomorrow. Will they <u>be driving</u> tomorrow? We <u>will not be driving</u> tomorrow. You <u>won't be driving</u> tomorrow. 1. this is the pure future tense (without any hopes, predictions, expectations, etc.) Philip <u>will be sitting</u> on the right and Jane on the left. 2. it can stress (zdůraznit) the duration (délka) in the course of events (chod událostí) He <u>will be talking</u> to his girlfriend all afternoon.

Other ways of expressing the future:

Going to	Be about to
I <u>am going to drive</u> to his house. She <u>is going to drive</u> to his house. Are they <u>going to drive</u> to his house? We <u>are</u> not <u>going to drive</u> to his house. You <u>aren't</u> <u>going to drive</u> to his house.	I <u>am</u> about to drive to his house. She <u>is</u> about to drive to his house. Are they <u>about</u> to drive to his house? We <u>are</u> not about to drive to his house. You <u>aren't</u> about to drive to his house.
1. to express the present intention (úmysl) in the future We <u>are going to get</u> married. 2. suggests that the event is already on the way (an evidence-based prediction) She <u>is going to</u> have a baby. (We can see it) 3. can express the 'future' intention in the past He <u>was going to</u> tell me everything when you came.	1. refers (odkazuje) to the immediate future We <u>are about to</u> leave. (Právě se chystáme odejít) 2. refers to the 'future' intention (úmysl) in the past He <u>was about to</u> hit me. (Právě se mě chystal udeřit.)

Other ways of expressing the past:

Used to	Would
I <u>used to</u> drive to his house. She <u>used to</u> drive to his house. Did they <u>use(d)</u> to drive to his house? We <u>did not use(d)</u> to drive to his house. You <u>didn't use(d)</u> to drive to his house.	I <u>would</u> drive to his house. She <u>would</u> drive to his house. Would they <u>drive</u> to his house? We <u>would not</u> drive to his house. You <u>wouldn't</u> drive to his house.
1. expresses habits (návyky) that we no longer have (už nemáme) or which we did not continue to have I <u>used to</u> smoke. (But I don't any more)	1. a characteristic activity in the past (predictable behaviour) Every morning he <u>would</u> go for a walk. (Každé ráno se chodíval projít) More often used in writing than in spoken language