Ten minute tenses!

**Present Simple**

The present simple is used to express daily routines and habits. Adverbs of frequency such as 'usually', 'sometimes', 'rarely', etc. are often used with the present simple.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
- always, usually, sometimes, etc.
- ... every day
- ... on Sundays, Tuesdays, etc.

**Present Continuous for Action at the Moment**

One use of the present continuous tense is for action that is occurring at the moment of speaking. Remember that only action verbs can take the continuous form.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
- ... at the moment
- ... now
- ... today
- ... this morning/afternoon/evening

Jason takes the bus to work every day.

Frank is watching TV at the moment.
Present Continuous for Current Projects

Use the present continuous to describe projects and actions that are happening around the present moment in time. Remember that these projects have begun in the recent past and will end in the near future. This usage is especially popular for talking about current projects at work or for specific hobbies.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
- ... at the moment
- ... now
- this week / month

Present Continuous for Scheduled Events

One use of the present continuous tense is for scheduled future events. This usage is especially useful when talking about appointments and meetings for work.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
- ... tomorrow
- ... on Friday, Monday, etc.
- ... today
- ... this morning / afternoon / evening
- ... next week / month
- ... in December, March, etc.

Past Simple

The past simple is used to express something that happened a past point in time. Remember to always use a past time expression, or a clear contextual clue when using the past simple. If you do not indicate when something happened, use the present perfect for unspecified past.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
- ... ago
- ... in + year / month
- ... yesterday
- ... last week / month / year ... whea ....
Past Continuous for Exact Times in the Past

The past continuous tense is used to describe what was happening at a specific moment in time in the past. Do not use this form when referring to longer periods of time in the past such as 'last March', 'two years ago', etc. Use the past continuous with times of the day in the past.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
... at 5.20, three o'clock, etc.

Past Continuous for Interrupted Action

Use the past continuous to express what was happening when something important happened. This form is almost always used with the time clause '... when xyz happened'. It is also possible to use this form with '... while something was happening' to express two past actions that were occurring simultaneously.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
... when xyz happened
... while xyz was happening.

Future with Going to for Future Plans

The future with 'going to' is used to express future plans or scheduled events. It is often used instead of the present continuous for future scheduled work events. Either form can be used for this purpose.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
... next week / month
... tomorrow
... on Monday, Tuesday, etc.
Future with Will for Promises and Predictions

The future with 'will' is used to make future predictions and promises. Often the precise moment the action will occur is unknown or not defined.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
- ... soon
- ... next month / year / week

Future with Going to for Future Intent

The future with 'going to' is used for future intent. Remember that you can express a future intent without expressing the exact future time that something will occur. This use of the future with 'going to' can be used to discuss future study plans, career plans, and more.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
- ... next week / month
- ... tomorrow
- ... on Monday, Tuesday, etc.

Present Perfect for Past to Present States and Actions

Use the present perfect to express a state or repeated action that began in the past and continues into the moment of speaking. The present perfect or the present perfect continuous can often be interchanged. The main difference between these two forms is that the present perfect continuous is generally used to express the length of the current activity up to the present moment in time.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
- ... for + amount of time
- ... since + specific point in time
Present Perfect to Express Recent Events
The present perfect is often used to express recent events that affect the present moment. These sentences generally use the time expressions 'just', 'yet', 'already', or 'recently' to express this connection. Remember that if you give a specific time in the past, the past simple is required. This tense is often used with the following time expressions:

- just
- yet
- already
- recently

Present Perfect for Unspecified Past Events
The present perfect is often used to express events that occurred in the past at an unspecified moment. This form is often used to express cumulative life experiences up to the present moment. Remember that if you use a specific past time expression, choose the past simple.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:

- twice
- three times
- four times
- ever
- never

Present Perfect Continuous
The present perfect continuous is used to express how long a current activity has been going on. It is often used in context to provide a reason for a present result. Remember that continuous forms can only be used with action verbs.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:

- since + specific point in time
- for + amount of time

Jack has just been to the bank.

Pete has been to New York three times.

She's been working since 10 this morning.
**Future Perfect**

Use the future perfect tense to express what will happened by a certain time in the future. The future perfect tense is often used to express achievements or work done by a future point in time. This tense is often used with the following time expressions:

... by Monday, Tuesday, etc.
... by the time ...
... by five o'clock, two-thirty, etc.

**Future Perfect Continuous**

The future perfect continuous is used to express the duration of an action up to a future point in time. This tense is not commonly used in English.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:

... by / ... by the time ...

**Past Perfect Continuous**

The past perfect continuous is used to describe how long an activity had been going on before something else happened. It is often used to provide context, or a reason for a specific action. This tense is often used with the following time expressions:

... for X hours, days, months, etc
... since Monday, Tuesday, etc.
Past Perfect
The past perfect is used to express something that happened before another point in time. It is often used to provide context, or an explanation for a specific action or result. This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
... before
already
once, twice, three times, etc.
... by the time

Future Continuous
The future continuous is used to talk about an activity that will be in progress at a specific point in time in the future. For example, We'll be having lunch on the beach this time next week. This tense is often used with the following time expressions:
...this time tomorrow / next week, month, year
...tomorrow / Monday, Tuesday, etc. / at X o'clock
... in two, three, four, etc. / weeks, months, years time