

# The Drinker's Guide to English Tenses

⊗ Single action/event

~~~~~ Continuous/repeated action/state



|                               |                                                                         |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Present Simple                | I drink every day – most people do                                      | ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗             |
| Present Continuous            | I am drinking now, as you can see                                       | ~~~~~                               |
| Simple Past                   | I went for a drink yesterday at lunchtime                               | ⊗                                   |
| Past Continuous               | I was drinking when you saw me                                          | ~~~~~                               |
| Past Perfect                  | In fact, I had drunk six bottles of Cisk before you saw me              | ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗                         |
| Past Perfect Continuous       | ... because I had been drinking for about an hour by then               | ~~~~~<br>1 hour                     |
| Present Perfect               | I have been to the pub six times his week since Monday                  | Monday ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗                  |
| Present Perfect Continuous    | I have been drinking since 1999                                         | 1999 ~~~~~                          |
| Present Continuous for Future | I'm meeting my girlfriend in the pub tomorrow                           | ⊗                                   |
| 'Going to' Future             | I'm going to drink champagne then, not beer                             | ⊗                                   |
| 'Will' Future                 | Maybe I'll get very, very drunk                                         | ⊗                                   |
| Future Continuous             | At this time tomorrow, I'll be drinking, as usual                       | ~~~~~                               |
| Future Perfect                | By this time tomorrow, I'll have drunk at least two more litres of beer | ⊗ ⊗                                 |
| Future Perfect Continuous     | By the year 2020 I'll have been drinking for more than ten years        | ~~~~~ 2020<br>← x number of years → |