Tense formation

How the tenses are formed in English
Times and tenses

- Times
  - Present
  - Past
  - Future

- Tenses
  - Simple
  - Continuous
  - Perfect

- Active / Passive
How many?

Present:
- Simple
- Continuous
- Perfect
- Perfect continuous

Past
- Simple
- Continuous
- Perfect
- Perfect continuous

Future
- Simple
- Continuous
- Perfect
- Perfect continuous

Passive voice
Continuous tenses

- are created using the verb “be” in the appropriate tense + **the present participle (ing)** form of the main verb.
  - The auxiliary verb (be) is often contracted in spoken language

- I **am leaving**. (I’m leaving)
- He **was talking**. (No contraction)
- We **have been working**. (We've been working)
- She **will be sleeping**. (She’ll be sleeping)
Perfect tenses

- is created using the verb “have” in the appropriate form + the past participle.
  - The verb have is usually contracted in spoken language
  - I have seen that film before.
  - I have just finished my assignment.
  - When I read your work I noticed you had made a mistake.
  - Before he got the job he had worked as a waiter.
  - You’ll have finished this by tomorrow.
  - By 2021 Britain will have left the EU.
Perfect continuous tenses

- is created using the verb “have” + the past participle of be (been) + present participle of the main verb.
  - The verb have is usually contracted in spoken language

- I have been working hard on this assignment.
- He had been walking all day before he arrived at his destination.
- I’ll have been working here for 20 years by the time I retire.
The Passive voice is formed using the verb “be” in the appropriate tense + past participle of the main verb.

- I am often misunderstood.
- He was accused of arson.
- My wallet has been stolen.
- The match will be postponed.