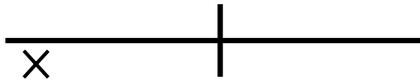
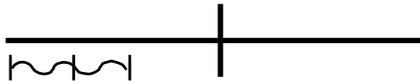
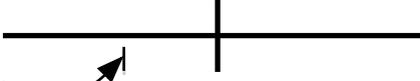
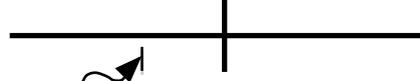
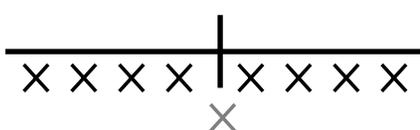
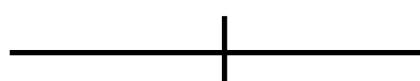


The English Tense System

| The Tenses | The Continuous Aspect | The Perfect Aspect | The Perfect Cont. Aspect |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Past Simple S + past verb</p>  <p><i>I saw that movie last week.</i></p> | <p>Past Continuous S + was/were + -ing</p>  <p><i>I was eating when the phone rang.</i></p> | <p>Past Perfect S + had + Past Participle</p>  <p><i>When we arrived at the station, the bus had left.</i></p> | <p>Past Perfect Continuous S + had + been + -ing</p>  <p><i>At 4 am, she had been sleeping for six hours.</i></p> |
| <p>Present Simple S + present simple verb</p>  <p><i>I drink coffee. I agree.</i></p> | <p>Present Continuous S + am/is/are + -ing</p>  <p><i>I am eating lunch now.</i></p> | <p>Present Perfect S + have/has + Past Participle</p>  <p><i>I have been to London.</i></p> | <p>Present Perfect Continuous S + have/has + been + -ing</p>  <p><i>I have been waiting for two hours.</i></p> |
| <p>The Past Simple is for past finished actions. It shows distance in time and sometimes distance in reality or social relationships.</p> <p>The Present Simple is for things that are always or usually true and sometimes for short actions at the moment of speaking.</p> | <p>Future Continuous S + will + be + -ing</p>  <p><i>I will be eating dinner at 7:00.</i></p> | <p>Future Perfect S + will + have + Past Participle</p>  <p><i>I will have finished it by Friday.</i></p> | <p>Future Perfect Continuous S + will + have + been + -ing</p>  <p><i>By 6:00, I will have been waiting for three hours.</i></p> |
| <p>KEY</p> <p>X action</p> <p> a point in time</p> <p>~~~~~ continuous action</p> <p>↪ a period of time</p> | <p>The Continuous Aspect is for continuous actions that happen AROUND a point in time. They start before the point in time and continue after it and then end.</p> <p>Note: For the Past and the Future Continuous, the point in time must be mentioned or understood.</p> | <p>The Perfect Aspect is for things that happen somewhere WITHIN a period of time that starts before a point in time. The action or event can sometimes last the whole period.</p> <p>Note: For the Past and the Future Perfect, the point in time must be mentioned or understood.</p> | <p>The Perfect Continuous Aspect is for actions that continue for the whole period of time before a certain point in time. It is a combination of the other two aspects.</p> <p>Note: For the Past and the Future Perfect Continuous, the point in time must be mentioned or understood.</p> |