

Verb tenses

We use the simple present tense to talk about habits or repeated actions.

I speak to Robert every day.

The present continuous is used to talk about actions that are happening right now.

I'm cooking dinner for my friends.

We use the simple past to talk about events that are completely finished.

I ate dinner and went to sleep.

We also use the simple past to talk about specific events that happened at a specified time.

Yesterday, I tried sushi.

The present perfect is used to talk about events in the past that have a direct effect on the present.

I've started learning the guitar.

We can also use the present perfect to talk about experiences in a general way, without specifying the time.

I've eaten sushi.

Task 1: Underline the correct option.

1. Be quiet now! I *speak* / *am speaking*.
2. Every day I *wish* / *am wishing* my father would come back.
3. I just tried / have tried caviar for the first time yesterday. It was gross!
4. No one sees me. At the moment, they *all listen* / *are all listening* to my wife.
5. I *didn't see* / *haven't seen* Ithaca since I left for war twenty years ago.
6. I *didn't know* / *haven't known* what happened to you after the war.

Task 2: Put the verbs in parentheses in the correct tense.

1. I _____ to the movies yesterday. (go)
2. My friend _____ to music every evening. (listen)
3. They _____ their car. It looks brand-new. (wash)
4. Listen! Mr. Jones _____ the piano. (play)
5. She _____ her left arm two weeks ago. (break)
6. We _____ a test now. (answer)
7. Emily often _____ lunch at school. (have)
8. He _____ all his money. His parents are going to get angry. (lose)