

TENSE

⇒ The form of the verb which reflects the objective category of time and expresses the relation between the time of the action and the time of the utterance.

TIME universal and independent of language

- ▷ Absolute tenses show the time of the action in relation to the present moment
 - ↳ past
 - ↳ present
 - ↳ future
- ▷ Relative tenses express time in relation to the principal tenses
 - ↳ past perfect
 - ↳ present perfect
 - ↳ future perfect

PRESENT TIME

PRESENT from different perspectives:

1. **REAL or ACTUAL PRESENT.**

⇒ Moment of speech (or thinking)

(1) *What are you doing in the kitchen, dear?*

2. **EXTENDED or LIMITED PRESENT.**

(2) *I'm reading an interesting book.* not necessarily now, but these days
(3) *George is working on his thesis.*

⇒ General present - a more or less long but limited period of time, including the immediate past, the moment of speaking or thinking, and presumably some part of the future.

3. **ALL-INCLUSIVE or TIMELESS PRESENT.**

(4) *Honesty is the best policy.*
(5) *Two and two make four.*
(6) *We don't go out much.*
(7) *Bill drinks heavily.*

⇒ Covers an immense period of time stretching from the moment of speaking without limits in both directions towards the past and the future.

4. **RETROSPECTIVE PRESENT.**

(8) *You look tired. Have you been partying again?*
(9) *What have you done this time?*

⇒ Looks upon the state at the moment of speaking as a result of an action that took place before that moment.

5. **PROSPECTIVE PRESENT.**

(10) *We are leaving for France tomorrow.*

⇒ Views the state at the moment of speaking as leading to an action that takes place after the moment.

PRESENT INDEFINITE	PRESENT PROGRESSIVE	absolute tenses
PRESENT PERFECT INDEFINITE	PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE	relative tenses

▷ Present Indefinite

1. ALL-INCLUSIVE OR TIMELESS PRESENT.

1.1 STATES.

Unrestrictive use.

- (11) *War solves no problems.*
 (12) *Crime is the best policy these days.*
 (13) *The sauce tastes awful.*

no time limitations
 time limitations implied by an adverbial
 time limitations by practical knowledge

eternal / universal truths, proverbs and geographical statements:

- (14) *Hydrogen is the lightest element.*
 (15) *Ten divided by five makes two.*
 (16) *Spiders have eight legs.*
 (17) *It takes two to tango.*
 (18) *No news is good news.*
 (19) *Paris stands on the River Seine.*
 (20) *Switzerland borders on Italy, Austria, Germany and France.*

1.2 HABITS.

habits:

⇒ A series of individual events which as a whole make up a state.

- (21) *She buys everything she wears from Marks & Spencer.*
 (22) *He never flushes the toilet.*
 (23) *I take lessons in self-defence.*
 (xx) *He who hesitates is lost.*

Everytime someone
 hesitates, he is lost.

repeated actions:

- (24) *The store opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m.*

permanent actions:

- (xx) *She speaks English and French.*

2. THE REAL/ACTUAL PRESENT.

2.1 WITH STATIVE VERBS.

- (25) *Do you smell something burning?*
- (26) *Hello, do you see me?*
- (27) *Don't tell me that it true what I hear.*

2.2 WITH DYNAMIC VERBS.

⇒ instantaneous use = expressing events, not states

demonstrations, or “running commentaries”:

- (28) *I pick up the fruit with a skewer, dip it into the batter, and lower it into the hot fat.*
- (29) *Look, I take this card from the pack and place it under the handkerchief.*

commentaries:

- (30) *Johnson passes the ball to Fernandez, and Fernandez shoots!*
- (31) *Plushenko starts the jump with the step sequence, rotates four times, lands and completes the programme with a flying spin.*

instructions:

- (32) *You test an air-leak by disconnecting the delivery pipe and pumping petrol into a container.*

performatives:

⇒ the action is performed by pronouncing the verb

- | | |
|--|--|
| (33) <i>I name this ship Hulk.</i> | naming |
| (34) <i>I sentence you to three years in prison.</i> | passing sentence |
| (35) <i>I now pronounce you man and wife.</i> | declaration |
| (36) <i>I bet she will come to the party.</i> | bet |
| (37) <i>I give you my word.</i> | promise |
| (38) <i>I refuse to answer the question.</i> | refusal |
| (39) <i>I enclose a form of application.</i> | formal writing (vs. <i>I'm enclosing ...</i>) |
| (40) <i>I write to inform you that ...</i> | formal writing (vs. <i>I'm writing ...</i>) |

exclamatory sentences with an initial adverbial:

- (41) *Here comes the bride.*
- (42) *Here comes the turkey.*
- (43) *Off you go.*

declarative sentences with the A P S word order:

- (44) *In the middle of the room stands / *is standing a young girl.*

written reports:

- (45) *The board says: “Trespassing prosecuted.”*

stage instructions:

(46) *When the curtain rises, Juliet is writing at her desk. Suddenly the window opens and a masked man enters.*

summaries:

(47) *Some time after their eventful trip on the river, the same three men suffer a renewed attack of itchy feet and decide to take off on a 'bummel'.*

3. SPECIAL USES.

3.1 PAST TIME REFERENCE:

with the verbs of communication:

(48) *Your brother tells me you are going to be married.*

(49) *I hear that our neighbours have divorced.*

(50) *This book speaks of the terrible living conditions in London at the turn of the 18th century.*

(51) *In 1971 Leech already writes that ...*

sentences referring to writers, composers, etc and their works (optional):

(52) *In his glorious, witty, yet disarmingly down-to-earth novel, Hardy brings his childhood fascination with the Napoleonic era stunningly to life.*

historic/dramatic present:

⇒ expressing vividness in narration

(53) *It was a quiet summer afternoon. All of a sudden, a loud shot is heard. No one is to be seen anywhere. Geoffrey's face shows a mixture of curiosity and fear.*

newspaper headlines:

(54) *Mass Murderer Breaks Free.*

3.2 FUTURE TIME REFERENCE:

in main clauses:

⇒ States which cannot be changed or when the future event is part of a settled programme.

(55) *Tomorrow is Thursday.*

(56) *Examination starts in June.*

(57) *The plane leaves for Ankara at eight o'clock tonight.*

in adverbial clauses of time (temporal clauses):

(58) *I'll tell him when he comes.*

(59) *They will send you the confirmation as soon as they receive the voucher.*

in adverbial clauses of condition (conditional clauses):

(60) *I won't come, if you do not invite me.*

(61) *He will do it if you don't pay him.*

▷ **Present Progressive**

⇒ Verb construction in which the *-ing* form is preceded by a form of the verb *to be* (auxiliary verb). It suggests a happening in progress.

The progressive has the effect of surrounding a particular event or moment by a "temporal frame". Within the flow of time, there is some point of reference which the temporary eventuality indicated by the verb can be seen as stretching into the future and into the past.

0. GENERAL.

0.1

typically used with:

e.g. *to stare, to watch*

e.g. *to drive, to run*

rarely used with:

e.g. *to hear, to see*

e.g. *to correlate, to compose, to be based on*

e.g. *to smash, to swallow*

e.g. *to dissolve, to invent*

0.2 Registers.

0.3 General properties:

⇒ Distinguishing the present progressive from the present simple.

▷ temporariness

⇒ limited duration *I live in Ljubljana : I am living in Ljubljana.*

▷ incompleteness

▷ duration

1. USE.

1.1 REAL/ACTUAL present.

temporary situations, activities, or goings-on:

⇒ Present moment in its time span, stretching for a limited period into the past and into the future.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| (1) 'What are you doing?' 'I'm trying to play the violin.' | durative |
| (2) Look how little Peter is jumping with joy. | punctual |
| (3) The weather is changing. | transition / process |
| (4) Jeremy is stopping the car. | transition into a state |
| (5) He is tasting the soup. | voluntary action, active perception |
| (6) He is being a fool. | He is acting foolishly. |

two coextensive actions:

- (7) He is crying and she is laughing.
- (8) The women are chatting while/when the men are playing tennis.

1.2 GENERAL / LIMITED present.

↪ Series of events

a habit in existence over a limited period of time (i.e. temporariness):

The doer may not be performing the action at the time of speaking.

- (9) I'm taking dancing lessons this winter. habit /dancing lessons, every Friday/
BUT temporary /this winter/
- (10) I'm going to the gym every afternoon this week.

⇒ Limited duration is applied not to the individual events that make up the series, but to the series as a whole.

permanent habit suggesting that every event in a sequence of events has limited duration / incompleteness:

⇒ Repetition of events of limited duration

- (11) Whenever I see her, she's working in the garden.
- (12) Remember that when you're taking a rest, someone else is always working.
- (13) She is lecturing at this time every Friday.
- (14) When the eight o'clock news comes on, I'm already travelling to work.

habits emotionally coloured by the speaker/writer:

- (15) He is always drinking beer.
- (16) She is continually forgetting her manners.

momentary verbs

- (xx) *hiccough, jump, knock, nod, etc.*

⇒ Happening so momentary that it is difficult to think of them as having duration.

1.3 Other uses.

1.3.1 ATTITUDINAL PRESENT PROGRESSIVE:

⇒ More polite in colloquial speech, because of denoting incompleteness.

- (17) *I'm hoping to borrow some money.*
- (18) *I am wondering if you could help me.*
- (19) *I'm looking forward to meeting you.*

1.3.2 FUTURE TIME REFERENCE.

future arising from present arrangement, plan or programme:

- (20) *The orchestra is playing a piece by Prokofiev after this.*
- (21) *I'm taking the children to the zoo on Saturday.*
- (22) *That does it! I'm leaving you.*
- (23) **Strawberries are being more expensive next week.*
**The trees are losing their leaves soon.*
- (24) *He's dying next week.*

no human endeavour
no human endeavour
an execution only

in adverbial clauses of time (temporal clauses) denoting the future:

- (25) *While you are sweating here, I'll be having fun in Helsinki.*

in adverbial clauses of condition referring to the future:

- (26) *If you are sleeping when I come back, I won't wake you up.*

	PRESENT INDEFINITE	PRESENT PROGRESSIVE
all-inclusive present	a) states b) universal truths c) habits / repeated events	a) / b) / c) temporarily limited habits permanent habits with reference to duration / incompleteness emotionally coloured permanent habits
actual present	a) with stative verbs b) with dynamic verbs: - demonstrations - commentaries - instructions - performatives - exclamatory sentences - A P S word order - written reports - stage instructions (events) - summaries	dominantly used, some exceptions (background)
Past time reference	a) verbs of communication b) verbs denoting mental processes c) historic / dramatic present d) newspaper headlines	/
Future time reference	a) an event unalterably fixed in advance b) adverbial clauses of time c) adverbial clauses of condition	a) present arrangement leading into the future b) adverbial clauses of time c) adverbial clauses of condition

Discussion.

1.

*In Europe, at the beginning of the cèpe season, people **drive out** to the countryside and **comb** the forests for these large clumpy mushrooms and then every restaurant and home **has** cèpe dishes for a week. All the other mushrooms **are also sprouting** and I again received a message from the Duc, who **is** patron of the Société Mycologique, asking me to judge the Salon du Champignon at Baume-les-Dames.*

2.

In the last twenty-five years the French have changed their eating habits, they **are eating** half as much bread, a third less potatoes, fewer vegetables. About the same amount of beef and veal. Twice as much as pork.

3.

"As a class we have been both selfish and obtuse. In the last reign the King and his mistress said that after them would come the deluge. I can hear it thundering very close now, I **fancy** that—without the miracle—that deluge will soon envelop us."

"But as this **is known**, surely it **is** a warning. Can't it be averted?"

"The King **is calling** together the States General. He **is asking** the two wealthiest orders in the land—that is, the clergy and the nobility—to make sacrifices to save the country. It **is** an explosive situation. I must go to Paris. I **don't know** how long I shall be there, or how long before I **see** you again, Minelle, I **want** you to stay here until I **send** for you. Take care of yourself. Don't forget that we **are living** on a razor's edge, Minelle. That is why I **am speaking** to you now, you must know the depth of my feelings for you."

4.

They **feel** amply rewarded by being allowed to stand at the window of my studio while I **write** despite the icy conditions outside.

5.

"The organization of the men into their syndicates **leaves** me very little room for manoeuvre. They **complain** they **are losing** their jobs because we have introduced machinery, but if we cannot compete with our competitors in Spain and England, then we **have** no hope."

6.

"Wasn't it disgraceful ... the stone through the window? I would not care to be in the culprit's shoes if he were discovered. **Do** you **think** they will find him?"

"I **doubt** it now. Unless one of his enemies **betrays** him. That sort of thing **is happening** all over the country. I **don't know** what things **are coming to**. **Are you staying** in France, mademoiselle?"

7.

He tore a page from his notebook and wrote:

Dear Isabelle, I **am sending** this to you at the house in Amiens where it will probably be destroyed but I **am writing** to you because I **have** no one else to write to. I **am sitting** beneath a tree near the village of Auchonvillers where we once came to spend the day. Like hundreds of thousands of British soldiers in

these fields I **am trying** to contemplate my death. I write to you to say that you are the only person I have ever loved.

PAST TENSES

PAST = before 'now'; before S



1. AT A POINT OF TIME, NOT OVER A PERIOD OF TIME

a) definite point of time b) indefinite point of time

aa) explicit ab) implicit

Examples:

(1) a) *She left school in 1995.*

aa) *They rebuilt the house three years ago.*
When we met, she gave me a parcel for George.

ab) *Beethoven composed nine symphonies.*
The Nazis caused a lot of damage.
I visited St. Paul's Cathedral.
Did you have a good journey.
I went to school with Tony Blair.
Philadelphia was founded by William Penn.

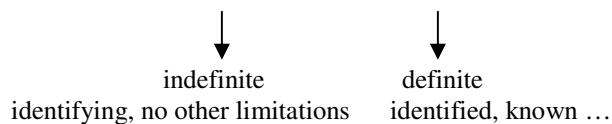
implied: during his life.
 implied: during the SWW.
 implied: my stay in London.
 implied: ...when you came here
 implied: ...when I was a schoolboy.
 definite place, definite time

b) *I've been to London.*
She has left him.

Indefinite vs. definite:

Case A. Articles:

(i) *She was looking for a millionaire, but the millionaire she found at last was a fake.*



Case B. Tenses:

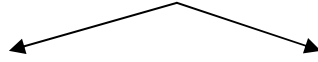
(ii) *There have been many times when I wished you were here.*
Where have you been? I was looking for you everywhere.
 A: "*I've been to Geneva once.*" B: "*How did you like it?*"



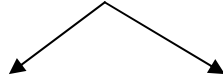
PAST = before 'now'; before S



2. OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, NOT AT A POINT OF TIME



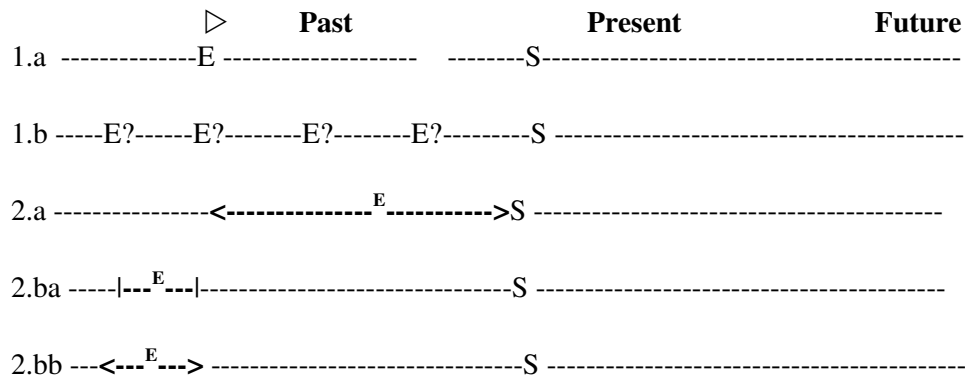
a) extending up to the present b) relating only to the past



ba) having been completed bb) not having been completed

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(2) a) <i>George has been drinking heavily.</i>
 <i>Gabriel has been living in Geneva (for three years).</i>
 <i>Gabriel has lived in Geneva (for three years).</i>
 <i>Michael has been losing money.</i></p> | <p>durative v.+ progressive
 durative v.+ indefinite
 terminative v.+ progressive</p> |
| <p>ba) <i>I was reading between ten and eleven.</i></p> | <p>completed over the period</p> |
| <p>bb) <i>A helicopter was landing on the beach.</i>
 <i>She was starting the car.</i>
 <i>George was growing impatient.</i></p> | <p>incomplete over the period
 incomplete over the period
 incomplete over the period</p> |

Diagram representations:



▷ Past Indefinite

the temporal function:

⇒ Expresses a contrast between past and present

- (3) *She was such a sweet child.*
- (4) *They owned a very luxurious hotel in Norway.*

the modal function:

⇒ Doesn't express a contrast between past and present time, but between reality and desirability, (im)possibility, or mere supposition

- (5) *I wish she was here now.*
- (6) *He behaves as if he owned this place.*

► Temporal Function

0. GENERAL.

- (7) *The Prime Minister's popularity plummeted last week, when he announced the new taxation.*
- (8) *When did he leave for Tokyo?*
- (9) *You'll never guess whom I came across in Geneva.*
- (10) *Did you go to the Sarah Brightman's concert?*

See also examples (1a), (1aa) and (1ab).

1. USE.

Complete happenings, events that are seen as a complete entity, with no reference to the internal structure of the event:

⇒ Applies only to completed happenings which took place at a definite time in the past and have no connection with the present moment.

- (11) *William Barnes was born, lived and died in his beloved county of Dorset.*
- (12) *The water of the Nile sustained the prosperity of the Pharaohs for thousand of years.*
- (13) *Archery was a popular sport for the Victorians.*
- (14) *In those days, children spoke only when spoken to.*
- (15) *He visited us every Sunday.*
- (16) *Whenever they went abroad they rented out their flat.*

with durative verbs: continuous action in the past, with no reference to the internal structure of the event:

- (17) *They lived in a beautiful country cottage near Florence.*
- (18) *He worked for the National Library.*
- (19) *I enjoyed a game of squash.*

with terminative verbs: a single completed action:

- (20) *No one was injured by the explosion.*
(21) *She hit him on the head.*

with punctual verbs + adjunct denoting time: the repetition:

- (22) *George sneezed the whole night.*

with two/more terminative verbs: a sequence of completed or momentary events:

- (23) *When she got up, Josie took a shower, dressed, breakfasted substantially and left for work.*
(24) *He knocked and screamed but she could not hear him.*
(25) *She addressed and posted the letter. but: *She posted and addressed the letter.*

with two/more durative verbs: simultaneous happenings:

- (26) *She enjoyed and admired the works of Monet. and: She admired and enjoyed the works of Monet.*
(27) *Her mother loved and worshipped her. and: Her mother worshipped and loved her.*

BUT: a sequence or simultaneous happenings?

- (28) *She jumped up when the phone rang.*
(29) *She kissed and hugged him.*

the Past Indefinite replacing the Past Perfect (coll. English):

- (30) *A stranger came to our house just after our son left.*
(31) *I couldn't believe that she was born in 1901.*

the past indefinite replacing the Present Perfect (coll. AmE):

- (32) *I saw it already. (= I have already seen it.)*
(33) *Did your sister phone yet?*

2. SPECIAL USES.

2.1 PRESENT AND FUTURE REFERENCE:

in indirect speech (i.e. reported speech) - optional:

- (34) A: *Did you say you **had/have** no money?*
B: *Yes, I'm completely in the red.*
(35) A: *How did you remember that I **was/am** Rupert Peacock?*
B: *Well, I remembered that you **were/are** tall, and **wore/wear** glasses.*

attitudinal past:

- (36) *Did/do* you want to see me now?
- (37) *I wondered/wonder* if you had any little pieces of furniture you'd like to sell.
- (38) *I thought I might come and see you later this evening.*

▷ **Past Progressive**

Revise the general properties of progressive tenses.

1. USES.

continuative, durative actions at a certain point in time in the past:

(1)

example:	definite point
a) <i>What were you doing <u>yesterday afternoon?</u></i>	stated
b) <i>What was he doing <u>when I saw him?</u></i>	defined by a momentary/completed action
c) <i>What was he doing <u>while I was trying to call the Police?</u></i>	defined by another parallel action
d) <i><u>It was a beautiful starlit night in May.</u> Mrs Winslett was staring at Venus.</i>	implied by the context, or understood from the context

continuative, durative actions in the past over a limited period of time:

(2)

example:	limited period of time
a) <i>She was working <u>from dawn to dusk.</u></i>	stated (<i>from ... to (till), between... and</i>)
b) <i>George was travelling <u>the whole week.</u></i>	implied (<i>all X, the whole X</i>)
c) <i><u>Yesterday, I was reading the book you had given me.</u></i>	neither stated nor implied (<i>yesterday, last X</i>)

NB:

§ when the limits are stated, the Past Progressive Tense is not obligatory:

- (3) *The baby was sleeping from 8 p.m. till 10 a.m.*
or *The baby slept from 8 p.m. till 10 a.m.*

§ when the limits are implied, then there is a difference in meaning between the Past Progressive and the Past Indefinite:

- (4) *Yesterday the judge was hearing the Christie case.*
vs. Yesterday the judge heard the Christie case.

two or more coextensive continuative actions in the past:

- (5) *When/While Jane was having a bath, John was watching the television.*

a temporary arrangement; actions repeated over a certain, limited period of past time:

- (6) *We were having lunch an hour later last week, because my mother had to work late.*

an action in progress at recurring points in the past:

- (7) *Whenever I called on him, he was repairing those old wheels.*

1.1 SPECIFIC USES.

repeated, habitual actions, emotionally coloured by the speaker/writer:

- (8) *My father was always getting into trouble with the law.*
(9) *She was continually forgetting people's names.*

as an alternative to the Past Indefinite (in coll. English):

- (10) *I was talking to Mrs Sniffitt the other day, and the things she was saying about Miss Pulpitt, dear me, you would never believe that.*
(11) *Paula was saying that Eddie was going to be promoted.*
(12) *I was recently reading about an invention which may turn garbage into soil.*

attitudinal past progressive:

- (13) *I was hoping you could join us for a drink.*
(14) *I was wondering if you'd look after my cat while I'm on a holiday.*

2. SEMANTICS.

durative verbs:

- (15) *She was living in Geneva.* temporary residence
(16) *They were eating their dinner.* continuing activity

terminative verbs denoting processes:

- (17) *She was separating whites from yolks.*
(18) *Joseph was starting the car.*
(19) *A helicopter was landing on the beach.*

terminative verbs denoting transition:

- (20) *She was getting paler and paler, and in the end she fainted.*
(21) *The weather was changing.*
(22) *They are widening the road.*

terminative, punctual verbs:

- (23) *Gracie was tapping on the bedroom door.*
(24) *Someone was firing a gun at me.*

true statives: perception:

No progressives (exceptions: some marked registers)

statives used as dynamic verbs:

- (25) *She's smelling the perfume.* voluntary actions
(26) *Tim, are you wanting any fruit?* attitudinal meanings
(27) *I'm not liking it.* attitudinal meanings
(28) *I'm feeling strange. I think I need an aspirin.* temporary state
(29) *He is being a fool.* "pretending / acting"
(30) *The car is being difficult.* personified "pretending / acting"
(31) *She is forgetting her manners.* gradual development

3. CONTEXTUAL REASONS.

Background (Progressives) vs. foreground (Indefinites):

- (32) *The woman **was lying** dead on the floor when he **came in**. She was already dead and covered up from head to toe but Wexford only knew that afterwards, not at the time.*
- (33) *On the last day of May in the early nineties, about six o'clock of the evening, old Jolyon Forsythe **sat** under the oak tree before the terrace of his house at Robin Hill. He **was waiting** for the midges to bite him before abandoning the glory of the afternoon.*
- (34) *I **went** up and out as we steamed slowly down the river to one of the great glass cases where the passengers **stood** to watch the land slip by. 'Such a lot of friends,' my wife **had said**. They **looked** a strange crowd to me; the emotions of leave-taking **were just beginning** to subside; some of them, who **had been drinking** till the last moment with those who **were seeing them off**, were still boisterous; others **were planning** where they would have their deck chairs; the band **played** unnoticed — all were as restless as ants. I **turned** into some of the halls of the ship, ...*

	THE PAST INDEFINITE	THE PAST PROGRESSIVE
SINGLE / COMPLETED EVENT	Very common. <i>He opened a can of tomatoes.</i>	Rare; chiefly colloquial. <i>I was recently reading about an invention ...</i>
SEQUENCE OF COMPLETED EVENTS	Very common. <i>She got up, dressed, ate ...</i>	/
SINGLE / INCOMPLETE EVENT	Rare. <i>??Yesterday, I read a book.</i>	Very common. <i>I was making a cherry cake, when they dropped by.</i>
CONTINUATIVE EVENTS	Common with durative verbs with no reference to the internal structure. <i>She worked as a private secretary all her life.</i>	Very common; reference to the internal structure of the event. <i>He was travelling a lot.</i>
PAST HABITS	Very common. <i>Whenever he visited us, he brought some chocolates.</i>	temporarily limited habits. <i>He <u>was going</u> to work by underground last week.</i> Permanent habits in progress at reoccurring points in the past. <i>Whenever I came, she was sleeping.</i> Permanent habits with emotional involvement. <i>He was always visiting at the most inappropriate occasions.</i>
SIMULTANEITY	Only with events lasting only a short time. <i>When the bomb went off, three people were killed.</i>	Very common. <i>When George arrived, she was making coffee.</i>
COEXTENSIVE EVENTS	Only durative verbs with no reference to the internal structure. <i>She listened to the music while/and George read the newspaper.</i>	Very common. <i>She was listening to the music while/and George was reading the newspaper.</i>
ATTITUDINAL	<i>I wondered if you could visit us some day.</i>	<i>I was wondering if you could visit us some day.</i>

Discussion:

1.

After leaving the canal house, Tuppence drove slowly along the narrow winding road which she had been assured would lead her to the village of Sutton Chancellor.

2.

Although deeply wounded by my deceit, my persona servants waved to me for some time as I walked down the path.

as + durative verbs	Indefinite
as + terminative	Progressive (incompleteness)
as + terminative	Indefinite (completeness)

3

I could not forget the shopman's warning, and as I walked it seemed to me that a terrible foreboding of the future came to me.

4

As the spring wore away he decided to consult a doctor. The decision – most alien to his temperament – was forced on him by a hideous experience in the train.

5

As he was leaving the next day, the Duc insisted I move from the guest's suite to his personal suite.

6

Up above me passed Boris Yeltsin, there went Yasser Arafat, Gough and Margaret Whitlam, there went Lady Di, Olympic champions. All passing overhead as I lay in my camp in the Jura Mountains.

7

As I sat around the camp fire, they spoke that special wisdom of the folk of the Jura.

PRESENT PERFECT TENSES

0. GENERAL.

past with present relevance

past involving the present

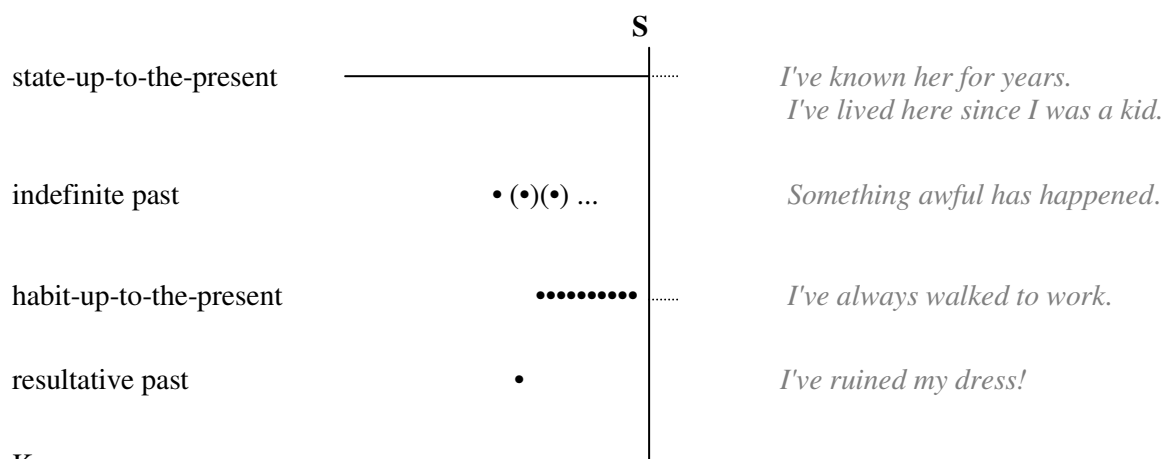
an event may involve a time period lasting up to the Present,

an event may have results persisting at the present time.

	example	Leech / Quirk	Blaganje / Konte
(1) a)	<i>I've known her for years.</i>	state-up-to-the present	continuative PrP
b)	<i>I've lived here since I was a kid.</i>		
(2)	<i>Something awful has happened.</i>	indefinite past	resultative PrP
(3)	<i>I've always walked to work. My father has travelled a lot.</i>	habit-up-to-the present	PrP of experience
(4)	<i>I've ruined my dress.</i>	resultative past	resultative PrP ??Explanatory PrP

N.B. Continuative = durative and is, therefore, in no way connected with the choice between the Indefinite and the Progressive form.

Diagram representations:



Key:

— indicates possible continuation after the present moment.

(•) (•)... indicates that there may be more than one event.

• indicates that results persist in the present time.

The indefinite perfect tenses show that the action referred to by the verb is anterior to the moment or period expressed by the adjunct of time associated with the sentence. The indefinite perfect tenses, therefore, express anteriority in relation to the moment of speaking.

0.1 Register / Lexical associations:

it is common in news, academic prose, and conversation

verbs that frequently occur in the Perfect: *go, do, say, make, call, show, see, become, criticise, agree, experience*

verbs that rarely occur in the Perfect: *need, want, doubt, believe, comprise, constitute glance, kiss, nod, scream, smile*

▷ Present Perfect

1. USE.

↳ Continuitive present perfect

state-up-to-the-present:

§ with stative verb:

⇒ Present involvement means that the state extends over a period lasting up to the present moment.

Since stative verbs are of undefined time-span the state itself may expand into the future.

- (1) *I've lived in this neighbourhood since I was a kid ('and this is where I'm living now').*
- (2) *We've known each other for years.*
- (3) *That house has been empty for ages.*
- (4) *We've kept healthy all our lives, and we mean to stay healthy in the future.*
- (5) *He's lived a life of luxury.*

The indefinite present perfect can be used to indicate an action which began in the past, has continued up to the moment of speaking and is either still continuing or has only just ended. *Mary has stopped living here : Mary is still living here.*

§ with stative a period of 'limited duration':

- (6) A: *'Why haven't you been writing to me?'*
B: *'I've been too angry to write.'* or *'I've been ill.'*

not permanent, temporary

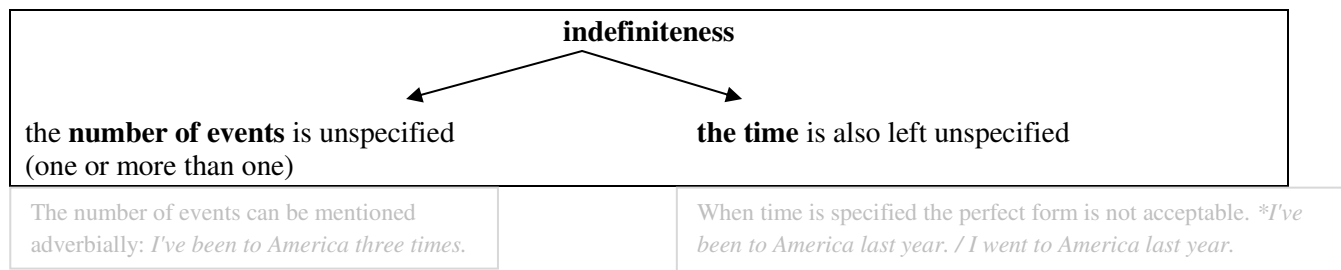
indefinite past:

⇒ 'event verbs' "at-least-once-in-a-period-leading-up-to-the-present"

- (7) *Have you (ever) been to Brazil?*
- (8) *He's a man who has experienced suffering.*
- (9) *I've known love, but not true love.*
- (10) *All my family have had injections against measles.*
- (11) *Have you visited the Gauguin exhibition?*
- (12) *The postman hasn't called at our house.*

compare with (2)

it's still on today



habit-in-a-period-leading-up-to-the-present:

- (13) *Mr Phipps has sung in this choir for fifty years.*
- (14) *I've always walked to work.*
- (15) *The news has been broadcast at 10 o'clock for as long as I can remember.*
- (16) *They have published books since 1850.*
- (17) *This train service has run non-stop since the late 1920's.*
- (18) *The machine has been serviced every year since we bought it.*

The habit may continue through the present moment into the future, and an adverbial of duration is usually required.

resultative past:

- (19) *The taxi has arrived. (The taxi is now here)*
- (20) *He has come and left.*
- (21) *She has been given a camera.*
- (22) *I've recovered from my illness. (I'm now well again)*
- (23) *Someone has broken her doll. (The doll is now broken)*
- (24) *I've had I taken a shower. (I'm now clean)*
- (25) *He's cut his hand with a knife. (The cut is still here)*

⇒ Used in reference to a past event to imply that the result of that event is still operative in the present time. The resultative meaning needs no support from adverbials.

2. THE USE OF ADVERBIALS.

The adverbials **DO NOT** determine the time of the event; they may only specify it!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (26) <i>She has always liked parties.</i> (27) <i>She always goes to the cinema on Fridays.</i> (28) <i>She is always complaining.</i> (29) <i>She was always the top actress.</i> (30) <i>She was always demanding more.</i> (31) <i>She will always be the crowd's favourite.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> habit-in-a-period-leading-up-to-the-present 'timeless, all-inclusive' habit emotionally perceived habit past habit (no longer) emotionally perceived past habit future prediction |
|--|--|

§ some adverbials that **frequently** (not always!) co-occur with the perfect tenses:

always, never, ever, yet, often, rarely, scarcely, lately, already ...

§ Adverbials denoting period of time:

- the starting point:

SINCE + NP/Adv/PP

since last year/yesterday/...

SINCE + a clause in the past tense

... *since I last saw you.*

- (32) *I haven't seen her since we broke up.*
- (33) *There have been no massages from Peter since last Monday..*

- o the period of time:

FOR + NP

... *for three years*

SINCE + a clause in the present perfect tense

- (34) *She has been in Japan for three months now.*
- (35) *I have really been trying very hard since I have been working for you.*
- (36) *Since he has been Professor of Philosophy in a Western University, he has seldom come to Boston.*

▷ Present Perfect Progressive

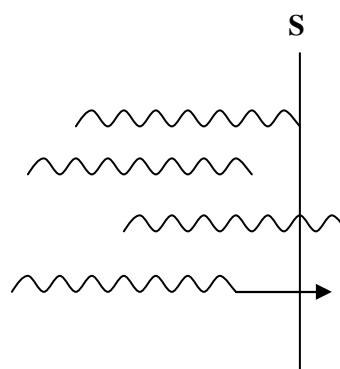
Mainly used as a continuative present perfect.

Recall features associated with the Progressive: duration, limitation of duration and possible incompleteness.

- (1) *I've been writing a letter to my nephew.*
- (2) *How have you been getting on?*
- (3) *It's been snowing again.*

The event

- i) has limited duration
- ii) continues up to the present or recent past
- iii) does not have to be complete
- iv) may have effects which are still apparent



1. USE.

a temporary situation leading up to the present moment:

- (4) *They have been skating together for ten years.*
- (5) *Where have you been? I have been waiting here for one hour!*
- (6) *Lynn and Josh have been living in that house since their marriage.*
BUT: *Lynn and Josh have lived in that house since their marriage.*

temporary
permanent

§ verbs such as *sit, lie, wait* and *stay*:

⇒ Generally refer to temporary states.

- (7) *I've been sitting here all afternoon.*
more idiomatic than *I've sat here all afternoon.*
- (8) *The inscription has presumably been lying here for thousands of years.*
more idiomatic than *The inscription has presumably lain here for thousands of years.*

potential incompleteness:

- (9) *The business has been losing money for years. ('... and will probably continue to lose money').*
 (10) *Who's been eating my sandwich? (some of it is left)*
 (11) *They've been widening the road.*

'present result':

←the effects
 of the
 activity are
 still apparent

→With verbs whose meaning entails eventual fulfilment or completion, the 'incompleteness' option in pres. pr. prog. Contrasts crucially with the ordinary pres. Pr., which specifies that the conclusion has already been reached.

↑The progressive becomes important when one thinks about the possibility of adding a statement predicting the continuation of the activity into the future.

- (12) *You've been fighting again.*
 (13) *She's been crying.*
 (14) *I've just been listening to a programme on Afghanistan.*
 (15) *You look awful. Have you been partying again?*
 (16) *This place is a complete mess! Have you been trying out another of your exotic recipes?*
 (17) *I have recently stopped painting the house.*

} The activity has recently stopped.

repeated actions, sequence of events:

- (18) *She has been tapping on his shoulder.*
 (19) *I have been trying to call since early morning.*
- repetition of events**
more than one attempt

temporary habit up to the present: less common:

- (20) *He's been scoring plenty of goals so far this season.*
 (21) *I've been going to hospital every week for tests.*

a habit in progress at recurring points of time up to the present:

- (22) *Whenever I've seen her, she's been wearing that preposterous old hat.*

⇒Stretching the time-span of each event rather than compressing the time-span of the habit as a whole.

Present Perfect Indefinite vs. Present Perfect Progressive

1. INDEFINITE USED INSTEAD OF THE PROGRESSIVE.

the passive:

(23) *Volunteers have been running the organisation.*
The organisation has been run by volunteers.

(24) *They've been constructing a new bridge.*
A new bridge has been constructed.
?? A new bridge has been being constructed.

negated clauses:

(25) *She hasn't been singing for three hours.* (but less/more, perhaps 4hrs)
(26) *She hasn't sung for three hours.* (She has been silent for three hours.)

2. SUMMARY.

	PrP Indefinite	PrP Progressive
durative events	<i>She has lain in the park for three hours.</i>	<i>She has been lying in the park (for three hours).</i>
(in) complete events	<i>I have written the letter.</i>	<i>I have been writing the letter.</i>
(un)interrupted	<i>I have swum in the lake.</i>	<i>I have been swimming in the lake.</i>

Present Perfect vs. Past Tense

	Present Perfect	Past Tense
frequency	less frequent	more frequent
time reference	<p>a) <u>continuation up to the present</u> <i>His sister has been an invalid all her life.</i> She is still alive.</p> <p><i>For generations, Nepal has produced the world's greatest soldiers.</i></p> <p>b) <u>present result</u> <i>Peter has injured his ankle.</i> His ankle is still bad</p> <p>c) <u>indefinite time</u> <i>Has Ruth Rendell written any novels?</i> Rendell is still alive.</p>	<p>b) <u>past only</u> <i>His sister was an invalid all her life.</i> She is now dead.</p> <p><i>For generations, Sparta produced Greece's greatest warriors.</i></p> <p>b₁) <u>result no longer present</u> <i>Peter injured his ankle.</i> but now it's better</p> <p>b₂) <u>unique historical events with present results</u> <i>This house was built by Ingo Jones.</i> <i>Tobacco was brought to England by Sir Walter Raleigh.</i></p> <p>c) <u>definite time</u> <i>Did Agatha Christie write any novels?</i> Christie is now dead.</p>
indefinite ↓ definite	<p><i>Joan <u>has received</u> a proposal of marriage; it <u>took</u> us completely by surprise.</i></p> <p><i>There <u>have been</u> times when I <u>wished</u> you were here.</i></p> <p><i>I <u>have read</u> the book on Morphology, I <u>read</u> it last week actually.</i></p>	

▷ Past Perfect Tenses

0. GENERAL.

the temporal function:

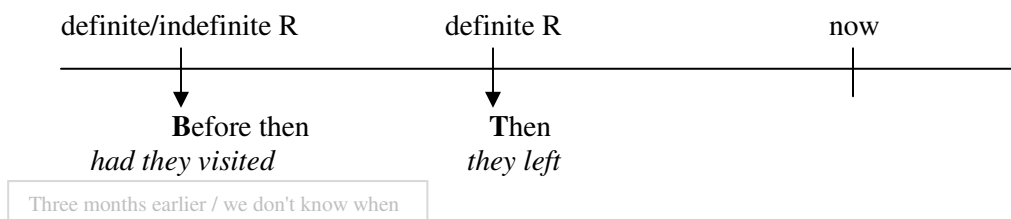
- (1) *Had they visited their grandparents before they left?*

the modal function:

- (2) *I wish I had passed the exam earlier. Now, I'll have to study more.*

▷ Past Perfect Indefinite

PAST-IN-THE-PAST ('a time further in the past, seen from the viewpoint of a definite point of time already in the past'); demands an already established past point of reference.



	example	Leech / Quirk	Blaganje / Konte
(1) a)	<i>The house had been empty for ages.</i>	state-up-to-then	continuative PaP
b)	<i>I'd lived there until I got married.</i>		
(2)	<i>Had they visited Paris before?</i>	indefinite past-in-past	resultative PaP
(3)	<i>Jane had worked in the library for fifty years.</i>	habit-up-to-then	PaP of experience continuative PaP
(4)	<i>The skater had injured his leg, so she couldn't skate.</i>	resultative past-in-past	resultative PaP explanatory PaP

However:

- (1) *The parcel had arrived on February, 28th.*

▷ Past Perfect Progressive

Features of the Progressive tense.

a temporary situation leading up to the past moment:

- (5) *The victims had been waiting too long before they were given first aid.*
- (6) *She had been living in terrible conditions, when he returned to her.*

potential incompleteness:

- (7) *The business had been losing money for years.*
- (8) *Who'd been eating my sandwich?*
- (9) *They'd been widening the road.*

'resultative past-in-past':

- (10) *You'd been fighting again.* I could tell that from your black eye.
- (11) *She'd been crying.* Her eyes were red.
- (12) *Katherine's fingers, ears and nose were turning blue; she had evidently been freezing.*
- (13) *He had stopped painting the house.*
I had recently stopped painting the house. or
the job of painting as a whole was incomplete; it might have been resumed
later.

repeated actions, sequence of events:

- (14) *She had been tapping on his shoulder.* repetition of events
- (15) *I had been trying to call since early morning.* more than one attempt

A habit in progress at recurring points of time up to the definite past:

- (16) *Whenever I'd seen her, she'd been wearing that preposterous old hat.*

past-in-past + duration:

- (17) *I had been speaking to her at 4 o'clock.*

Past Perfect Tenses and the Reference Point

2.1 TIME ADVERBIALS

- (18) *On one of the index cards he usually employed for notes, he had [months before]^R lettered as a reminder, the title of a book itself.*
- (19) *His suspenders were wide and of a red-and-black polka dot. Proudly and deceptively, he had [already]^R devised a tricky new riddle to entrap his gullible pals into bets of \$300 each.*
- (20) *Her name was Polly-Polly too; the recurrence in feminine name of the one he had [just]^R played with on paper dawned on him for the first time.*
- (21) *[By four o'clock]^R, they had sampled most of the collection, and the bottle of Four Roses was empty.*

adverb **never**:

- “at no time in the past or at no time in the future”: (“up till now/then”)
- (22) *I have never lost the weight I put on in my teens.*
- (23) *He had never reached the lowest point of all, at which he might have wondered whether there was something morbid in his beginning so solitary in his flight from an unnamed terror.*
- (24) *It had never occurred to her to shift the time of the meal so that she did not have to wait irritably for the men, trying to prevent pheasants from overcooking and parsnips from being blackened to charcoal.*
- (25) *She had never had a boyfriend before and baulked at the word when her father used it, but when her embarrassment had subsided she was forced to concede to herself that this was what he was.*
- “not in any circumstance at all”: (an antonym of *always*)
- (26) *The golden rule is never to clean a valuable coin.*
- “it refers to the past and means *not*”
- (27) *I never knew the lad.* I didn't know the lad.
- (28) *Never use a natural fibre such as string to hang pictures.* Don't use ...
- (29) *He waited until all the luggage was cleared but Paula never appeared.* She didn't appear.

2.2 TEMPORAL CLAUSES (adverbial clauses of time):

the conjunction **when**, denoting simultaneity (= *while*) and anteriority (= *after*):

- (30) *He heard himself breathing heavily when he arrived, but not excessively so, he hoped, for a*

man of his years.

- (31) When he had brought Josie her toy she gave him a genuine, sweet smile of thanks.
(32) She was able to think with clarity. When years had passed, she would meet other men; the natural affability of her temperament would not change: but David was her one, her self, and therefore that aspect of her life was over.



Compare with the Present Perfect:

- (33) She is able to think with clarity. When years have passed, she will meet other men; the natural affability of her temperament will not change: but David is her one, her self, and therefore that aspect of her life is over.

the conjunction before:

- (34) She had written a note, before she left.
(35) Thirty-five minutes went by before he reached the beach.

the conjunction after:

- (36) I ate my lunch after my wife had come back from town.
(37) I ate my lunch after my wife came back from town.
(38) He abandoned the attack after the woman screamed and bit him several times.

the conjunction until:

- (39) He continued watching until I had driven off / drove off.
(40) She waited until he had started reading again, and then said: 'Phil Johnson is dropping off the chair and trunk I bought in the auction up at Hilary's last week.'

2.2.1 CAN YOU DETERMINE THE REFERENCE POINT IN THE SENTENCES BELOW?

- (41) Sniffing appreciatively, Xenia adjusted a small vase of *Viburnum farreri* and then left the room, pausing on the landing to straighten a watercolour she had bought not long after her marriage to Johnnie.
- (42) Switching his radio on, he took hold of his yellow pad and ball point pen. He was aware only dimly that he had been humming the melody to the Caribbean song called "Yellow Bird" until the music welled through on a classical station to which the radio was always tuned.
- (43) When he came to help us last week, John had got up at six o'clock.

- (44) *He went to the table, picked up Lillian's cards and looked through them one by one until he had found first the black knave, then the red, and made some careful calculations.*
- (45) *Jasper was to fling, that point at me, years later, over a breakfast table in Maidenhead, when I had attacked his own traducing of history.*
- (46) *He felt too sick to have breakfast, but a taxi that Mary had called while he dressed was waiting for him; his own office was still in a hotel on Connecticut Avenue where his department was based until the new Embassy building was complete.*
- (47) *In moments of exalted love, of rapture, Mary believed Luisa's mind was not empty, but filled with clouds of glory from a previous and purer world. She had spent many weeks in hospital with Louisa while doctors tried to discover the source of some violent allergy.*

3. STRUCTURES IN WHICH THE PAST PERFECT TENSES FREQUENTLY OCCUR.

3.1 ADVERBIAL CLAUSES OF TIME (see above).

3.2 RELATIVE CLAUSES.

- (48) *He followed Dorothy and one or two of the others up the stairs to the room that had been Bunty's.*
- (49) *Again he pushed his pad and pen away from him in a lazy motion that had become all but automatic, rose, and with soughing noise didn't hear, grimly stretched himself out atop the bed in his studio and closed his eyes.*
- (50) *Mary watched as Charlie left the small group and went towards the bar which he had set up in the corner of the room.*
- (51) *One day he brought back with him to tea a man called David Oliver, an economist who had been seconded to the Treasury from London University.*
- (52) *Charlie was feeling the exhilaration of a hangover that had not settled.*

3.2 DEPENDANT NOMINAL CLAUSES:

- (53) *And Irv certainly did not want any one in his family to guess that he had allowed the new canary out of the cage.*
- (54) *One morning Gregor Samsa woke up and found that overnight he had been turned into a bug.*

(55) *It no longer seemed polite to ask Frank **what had happened to his hand**.*

(56) *A telephone call from her mother in London informed her **that David had been killed in action**.*

4. NARRATIVE TENSES AND PAST PERFECT TENSES.

Contextual dependency.

(a) Past Indefinite: **main**, focal situations

(b) Past Continuous: accompanying background situations

(c) Past Perfect: preparatory situations (the reason/cause why a main situation occurs).

STUDY THESE EXAMPLES:

(57)

“It won’t sing.”

“It’s dead.”

*The young boy, Irv, had figured that much out for himself but **did not want** the saleswoman in the pet shop of the department store to suspect he **knew**.*

(58)

*The night had grown woundingly cold with a breeze whistling down out of Canada. Charlie **lit** one more cigarette as he **leaned** against the door-frame; Mary **stood** beside him as the last of their guests **started up** their cars. An upstairs light **went** on opposite: it **was** the Chinese couple who dined on bowls of clear soup and went to bed at seven. Mary **flinched**. The guests had left quietly, but the rumble of Detroit machinery **was** enough to shake the storm-windows gently in their frames.*

(59)

*His face, with its long, narrow jaw on which the fist shadows of the morning’s beard were darkening, was not smiling. He **looked** drawn and anxious: the thin lapels of his suit, the narrow tie pulled halfway down over his cotton shirt, the long limbs folded over one another combined to suggest fragility. His pants had ridden up a little, showing where the grey woollen socks **hung** from his shins in slouched, concentric rings.*

(60)

*The unfinished mug of tea had cooled so he **padded** back to the kitchen for a refill; the kettle **was** in the same grubby shade of cream as the mug, with identical sad brown flowers printed on it. He **knew** that*

scarlet, green and blue kettles **were** available and he **liked** strong colours, but it **had not occurred** to him to buy one for his own pleasure.

(61)

When Luisa was twenty months old, she **could talk** with the fluency of a child of three or four, yet what **was** in her mind was quite unformed. On the Home Service in London she **had heard** the station of the shipping forecast and talked back to them, Dogger, Fisher, German Bight, her head cocked to one side, her concentration earnest.

(62)

“Hello? Hello? Edmund? Whatever are you doing?”

“Xenia! I was on the point of calling you.” He **lied** glibly – he really **had been meaning** to, over the last six weeks.

(63)

Edmund **awoke**, sharply aware of the cold. His legs **had been bicycling** subconsciously for some time in an effort to keep warm and he **leant** from the bed to feel the heater. Stone cold. Cursing a little, he **rolled** over the other way and **reached** for his jersey and jeans. His last dressing gown **had started** to shed little tufts of green towelling on the carpet, and then **had abruptly fallen** apart in despairing shreds.