Tenses

| tense | | form | use | signal words |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| simple present | I play volleyball. He plays football. I don't play badminton. Do you play basketball? Yes. I do. No, I don't. | he, she, it – das s muss mit | something happens regularlypermanent statehobby, jobtalk about films, books | often, usually, always, sometimes, every Friday, on Mondays |
| present progressive | I am playing football. He isn't playing volleyball. Are you playing football? Yes, I am. No, I'm not. | be + -ing ↓ am/is/are | - when an action is just now in progress | at the moment, now |
| simple past | I played football. He wrote a letter. We didn't watch the film. Did you meet her? Yes, I did. No, I didn't. | verb + -ed or irreg. form | when we want to say when something happenedreports, story | yesterday, last night, last Monday, in 2004, 2 days ago |
| past progressive | I was playing football. We were watching TV. I wasn't reading a book. Were you playing cards? Yes, we were. No, we weren't. | be + -ing ↓ was / were | - when an action or event was in progress at a particular time in the past | |

Tenses

| tense | | form | use | signal words |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| present perfect | I have played football. | have/has + past | - when we want to say that | already, before, ever, |
| | He has written a book. | participle | something has happened (fact is | just, never, up to now, |
| | We haven't met her. | | important, not the time) | yet |
| | Have you seen him? | | - when we want to say how long | - since (May), for (5 |
| | Yes, we have. No, we haven't. | | a state has already lasted | years), all week |
| | | | | - how long? |
| present perfect | I have been playing football. | have/has + been | - when an action or event began | - all day, the whole |
| progressive | He has been writing a book. | + -ing | in the past and has continued up | morning, |
| | We haven't been waiting. | | to the present | - since (yesterday), for |
| | Have you been reading? | | | (an hour) |
| | Yes, I have. No, I haven't. | | | - how long? |
| past perfect | I had read the book. | had + past | - when an action or event had | |
| | He hadn't written. | participle | already happened before a point | |
| | Had you played? | | of time in the past | |
| | Yes, I had. No, I hadn't. | | | |
| past perfect | I had been writing. | had + been + - | - when an action or event had | |
| progressive | He hadn't been playing. | ing | begun before a point of time in | |
| | Had you been reading? | | the past and continued up to that | |
| | Yes, I had. No, I hadn't. | | time | |

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| will future | I will write. | will + infinitive | - prediction or assumption | I think, |
| | I will not write. | | about the future | I'm sure, |
| | I won't write. | | - a spontaneous decision, | I suppose, |
| | Will you come? | | an offer, a promise | I believe, |
| | Yes, I will. No, I won't. | | | I hope, |
| | | | | perhaps, maybe |
| going-to-future | I am going to write. | be + going to + | - intentions or plans for | |
| | He is going to come. | infinitive | the future | |
| | We aren't going to write. | | - when something will | |
| | Are you going to come ? | are. is, am | very probably happen | |
| | Yes, we are. No, we aren't. | | because there are already | |
| | | | signs of it happening | |

[!] There are also other ways of expressing future time.