

## **PERFECT TENSES**

Present perfect, past perfect and future perfect (simple and continuous).

### **PRESENT PERFECT**

As explained in length during class, the present perfect is used to refer to an action and/or period of time/situation in both the present and past simultaneously.

The present perfect simple is used when the action you are talking about is considered general, permanent or habitual by the speaker, whereas the present perfect continuous is used to refer to an action that is considered temporary by the speaker.

The concept is: 'Fino ad ora'.

You form the present perfect simple with: the auxiliary 'have' in the present tense + past participle of the verb.

I've lived in Turin all my life.

You form the present perfect continuous with: the auxiliary 'have' in the present tense + the characteristics of a continuous tense ('be' + ing) + past participle as thus: 'have' + past participle of be 'been' + verb +ing ending.

I've been studying for this exam two months.

### **PAST AND FUTURE PERFECT**

The past perfect and future perfect are used in exactly the same way, but when you 'move back' or 'move forward' the present tense, and are formed simply by changing the auxiliary to the past or future:

I had done something. (past perfect simple: past tense of auxiliary 'have' + past participle of verb)

I will have done something (future perfect simple: future of auxiliary 'have' + past participle of verb)

I had been doing something (past perfect continuous: past of 'have' + 'been' + ing form of verb)

I will have been doing something (future perfect continuous: future of 'have' + 'been' + ing form of verb)

With the concept of: 'Fino ad allora' or 'a quel punto', respectively.

A) Example: (present, past and future perfect simple)

It is 2020. I am 20 years old. I've lived in Turin all my life. (I was born in Turin, grew up in Turin and still live in Turin. I consider this my permanent home; there is a referral to the past and today's present, from my birth until now 2020) (Fino ad ora)

In 2010, I had lived in Turin for 10 years (fino ad allora) riferimento ad un passato e un presente nel passato (due tempi)

In 2030, I will have lived in Turin for 30 years (a quel punto, nel 2030 saranno 30 anni che vivo a Torino): riferimento ad un passato e un presente nel futuro.

In tutti tre casi, ho usato un tempo 'simple' per sottintendere che considero Torino casa mia, la mia residenza permanente.

B) Example: (present, past, future continuous)

It is the end of April. I've been studying for this exam for 2 months. (I started studying for this exam two months ago and I am still studying for it; I consider this a temporary action, because I am studying for something specific with a deadline; when I take the exam, it is implied that I will stop studying the material for the exam).

At the end of March, I had been studying for this exam for one month. (fino ad allora, erano un mese che studiavo per questo esame); riferimento ad un passato e un presente nel passato (due tempi).

At the end of May, I will have been studying for this exam for three months. (a quel punto, fra un mese, saranno tre mesi che studio per questo esame); riferimento a due tempi: un passato e un presente nel futuro.