

## VERBAL TENSES: ACTIVE (A)

**NOTE (FORM):** All continuous forms have: 'to be' + ing form. All perfect forms have: 'to have' + pp.

### PRESENT (ONLY REFERS TO PRESENT)

**SIMPLE** (implied message: permanent; general; habitual)

I live in Turin. (Only refers to present, no referral to past, considered permanent)

**CONTINUOUS** (implied message: temporary; at the moment)

I'm living in Turin. (Only refers to present, no referral to past, considered temporary)

### PAST (ONLY REFERS TO PAST) Action and situation/period finished

**SIMPLE** (implied message: permanent; general; habitual)

I lived in Paris (until the year 2000). (Only refers to past; considered a permanent at the time)

This morning I drank three cups of coffee. (Only refers to past; it is no longer morning; a general thing I did)

**CONTINUOUS** (implied message: temporary; interrupted)

I was having my breakfast, when the doorbell rang. (Only refers to past; interrupted action – interrupted by the simple past)

### PRESENT PERFECT (REFERS TO PAST AND PRESENT TOGETHER) (also with: already, just, recently/lately)

**SIMPLE** (implied message: permanent; general; habitual)

I've lived in Turin since 2000. (implied message: refers to present and past; considered permanent: Vivo a Torino dal 2000.)

for 20 years. (implied message: refers to present and past;

considered permanent: Vivo a Torino da 20 anni.)

all my life. (implied message: refers to present and past;

considered permanent: Ho vissuto a Torino tutta la vita.)

I've eaten two sandwiches this morning. (implied message: refers to present and past; the period 'today' is not finished yet, so I could eat more sandwiches today: Ho mangiato due panini oggi.)

**CONTINUOUS** (implied message: temporary; at the moment) (

I've been reading this book since Friday. (implied message: refers to present and past; considered temporary: Sto leggendo questo libro da venerdì.)

for 2 weeks. (implied message: refers to present and past; considered temporary: Sto leggendo questo libro da due settimane.)

## VERBAL TENSES: PASSIVES (B)

**Note: The passive is used in English more often than in Italian. The passive is used when the subject of the action is unknown, less or unimportant, or not wanted to be revealed.**

The same implications present in the active tenses are implied in the passive tenses.

The present only refers to the present.

The past only refers to the past in a finished situation/period.

**The present perfect refers to both past and present simultaneously. ('to have' + past participle)**

The simple tenses imply something considered permanent, general or habitual.

**The continuous tenses (forms with 'to be' + ing form) imply something considered temporary.**

Note: In the following examples (passive sentences) the monkey does not commit the action:

**NOTE: The passive form in English is formed with the verb 'to be' + past participle of the verb.**

### Present simple passive:

A monkey **is put** into a cage. (Implied message: refers to present only; in general: "si fa così")

Monkeys **are put** into a cage.

### Past simple passive:

A monkey **was put** into a cage. (Implied message: refers to past only; something specific that happened in the past; action and situation finished). The monkey is no longer in the cage.

Monkeys **were put** into a cage.

### Present perfect simple passive:

A monkey **has been** put into a cage. (Implied message: refers to both past and present; action finished, but situation not finished). The monkey is still in the cage.

Monkeys **have been put** into a cage.

### Future simple passive:

A monkey **will be put** into a cage. (Implied message: referral to a predicted future event)

Monkeys **will be put** into a cage.