

You see, the concept of time does not just make studying English more difficult. It is even harder to understand what time really is. And our brains simply cannot go beyond it. A wise writer from the past put it like this:



God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end (*Ecclesiastes 3,11*).

After all, we live today. The present is the only time which is in our hands. The past is gone forever, and there is nothing we can do about the future. But we all know deep down in our hearts that there is more to life than just the present. We try to find answers to some deep questions, like: How did everything start? Will the wheel of time stand still one day? Why am I in this world? Does anybody really care about what happens in my life?

We cannot explain everything. But if we want to get some answers, we have to think bigger. We have to look beyond Past Perfect and Future Continuous. There really IS something beyond time. Not just an idea, an uncertain eternity, or a higher intelligence, but a personal God. Someone who has always been and who will always be. A loving God who created everything. A heavenly Father who really cares about everything that happens. An almighty Lord who holds the future in his hands. Think about what the Bible says about him:

- From everlasting to everlasting you are God (*Psalms 90,2*).
- God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you" (*Jeremiah 31,3*).

This God stepped down into our time when he became a human being in Jesus Christ. He came to die for our sins so that we can receive eternal life. He wants to be the Lord of our lives. Past, present and future only make real sense when we live with him, the Lord of time and eternity.

If you would like to know more about him, start reading God's Word, the Bible. If you do not have one, please let us know. Also, we would like to send you the booklet "Ultimate Questions". It will help you to understand the very basics about God, the world and yourself. Just use the reply slip to get in touch. We will be pleased to hear from you! *Matthias Roggli*



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A message for you

No. 06



# Tenses, Time and Eternity

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English tenses can be rather confusing. This chart should help you to understand the main use for each tense and how they relate to each other. However, the matter is much more complex. Check it out with a grammar book to go deeper into the subject.



## PAST

YESTERDAY AT 3:30PM

The bus was at the bus stop.

**PAST SIMPLE**

AN ONGOING ACTIVITY

Mike was cycling past the bus stop.

**PAST CONTINUOUS**

A PERIOD OF TIME

I had lived in London for 3 months  
(when I went home).

**PAST PERFECT**

ONE HOUR

Jane had been waiting at the bus stop for one hour  
(and was still waiting).

**PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS**

## PRESENT

NOW

The bus is at the bus stop.

**PRESENT SIMPLE**

AN ONGOING ACTIVITY

Mike is cycling past the bus stop.

**PRESENT CONTINUOUS**

A PERIOD OF TIME

I have lived in London for 3 months  
(and today I'm going home).

**PRESENT PERFECT**

ONE HOUR

Jane has been waiting at the bus stop for one hour  
(and is still waiting).

**PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS**

## FUTURE

TOMORROW AT 3:30PM

The bus will be at the bus stop.

**FUTURE SIMPLE**

AN ONGOING ACTIVITY

Mike will be cycling past the bus stop.

**FUTURE CONTINUOUS**

A PERIOD OF TIME

I will have lived in London for 3 months  
(when I will go home).

**FUTURE PERFECT**

ONE HOUR

Jane will have been waiting at the bus stop for one hour  
(and will still be waiting).

**FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS**

## Reply Slip

If you would like to receive any further information, please fill in this form and post it to us, or contact us by email.

- "I don't have a Bible – please send me one."  
Preferred language (if other than English): .....
- Please send me the booklet "Ultimate Questions" by John Blanchard
- I am interested in "Christianity Explored", a free course to learn more about Jesus Christ and his teaching. Please give me more information.

Full Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Please send or email to one of the addresses on the back  
student@HighburyFellowship.org