

The Perfect Tenses

Present Perfect Tense

Present perfect tense indicates that an action started in the past and continues in the present.

[have* + gone**]

*Present Perfect tenses require the auxiliary verb “have”

**Present Perfect requires a past participle

The movie *has* already *started*.

Present Perfect Tense can also be progressive by adding an **-ing** to the main verb.

I *have been playing* tennis for three years.

Past Perfect Tense

Past perfect tense is an action that took place first in the past. Simple past tense is the second event that happened in the past.

[had + gone]

He *had just finished* his laundry when you *called*.

After he *had shoveled* the sidewalk, it *began* to snow.

Future Perfect Tense

Future perfect tense is an event that will take occur before another event takes place.

[will/shall + have + gone]

The train *will have left* before we reach the station.

Exercise

Use the following movie schedule, or other movies, to write your sentences.

Charlie Bartlett 4:55

Fool's Gold 4:00

Jumper 4:15

Juno 3:45

Using the Present Perfect Tense, write how long the movies *have been playing*.

Example: *Atonement* **has played** every day at 3:00 for three weeks. Or, *Atonement* **has been playing** since 3:00.

Using Past Perfect and Simple Past Tenses, write how long the movies *had played*.

Example: *Atonement* **had finished** by the time I **arrived** at Camera 12.

Using Future Perfect and Simple Present Tenses, write sentences about the movies.

Example: Next week *Atonement* **will have played** for two weeks.