THE ENGLISH TENSES

PAST

PERFECT SIMPLE

HAD + PP
Use for past narrative story)
Example: Henry had bought the boat the day before he crashed

PERFECT CONTINUOUS.

HAD + BEEN + VERB + ING.

Example:
Henry had been dreaming about Jane when his boat hit the iceberg.

SIMPLE

Did
Didn't
Finished in the Past
id / t / ed
Irregular Verbs.
Example: His boat hit an iceberg.

CONTINUOUS

was / were + verb + ing.
Temporary Action.
A specific time period in the past.
example:
At 3 o'clock Henry was sailing past the lighthouse.

PRESENT

PERFECT SIMPLE

Has / have + P.P.
Recent Past.
Experience.
Habit.
Example: "His boat has hit an iceberg."
• Henry has sailed in the Irish Sea before.
• Henry has always loved sailing.

PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Have / has + been + verb + ing
example:
Henry has been swimming for 3 hours.
Jane has been crying since the Police told her the news.

SIMPLE

Do / Does.
Don't / Doesn't.
Always True.
Habitual Action.
Example: Henry swims everyday.
The ocean is very dangerous.

CONTINUOUS.

BE + VERB + ING.
Happening Now.
Temporary Activity.
example: Henry is swimming to the coast.
The Police are looking for Henry.

PRESENT TIMETABLE

Same as Present Simple
example: The Tide comes in at 9.00pm.

FUTURE

SIMPLE (Will)

Immediate Decision
Prediction without evidence.
example:
I'll shoot a flare.
Jane, "Henry will be alright."

Going to + verb.

Plans.
Arrangements
Intentions.
Predictions with evidence.
example: I'm going to kill the man who told me the boat.
I'm going to meet him at 9.
I'm going to reach the shore at 7:30pm.

CONTINUOUS

will + be + verb + ing.
example: Jane will be waiting for me.

PERFECT SIMPLE

will + have + PP
The Future in the Past
Projections about the future.
Example: The Police will have found the boat by now.
Jane will have cried herself to sleep.

PERFECT CONTINUOUS.

will + have + been + verb + ing.
example: Jane will have been crying for hours.

← Jane

← Henry

Seánán