

# VISUAL TENSE CHARTS

Present Simple – Routines & Facts

Past Present Future

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

**Jason takes the bus to work every day.**

Present Continuous – Actions in Progress

Past Present Future

**NOW!**

↑

**Frank is watching TV at the moment.**

Present Simple – Current Actions

Past Present Future

Around the present moment

○

**We're working on the Smith account this month.**

Present Simple – Scheduled Events

Past Present Future

Scheduled event

↑

**Janice is meeting with her tomorrow at 2 in the afternoon.**

Past Simple – Past Actions

Past Present Future

↑

**I bought Tim a present yesterday.**

Past Continuous – Past Actions in Progress

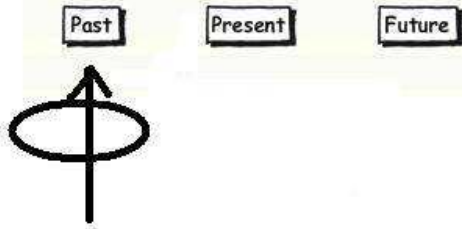
Past Present Future

Precise moment in the past

↑

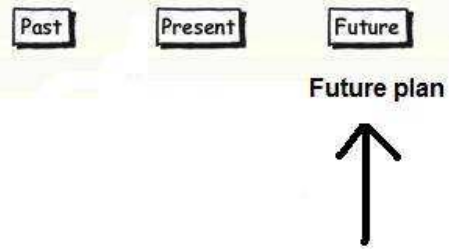
**I was reading last night at 9.30 p.m.**

Past Simple & Continuous – Interrupted Action



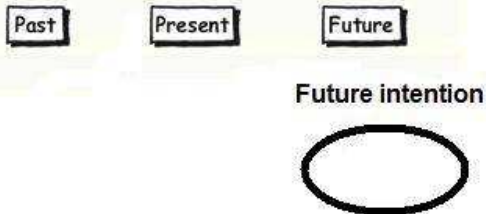
**They were eating dinner when he arrived home.**

“Going to” for Future Plans



**Jane is going to visit her parents next weekend.**

“Going to” for Future Intent



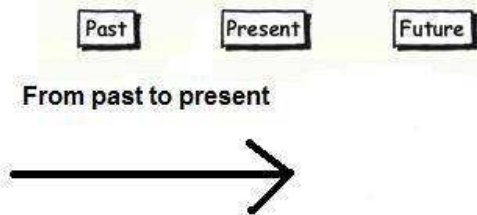
**She is going to study French at college.**

“Will” for Promises & Predictions



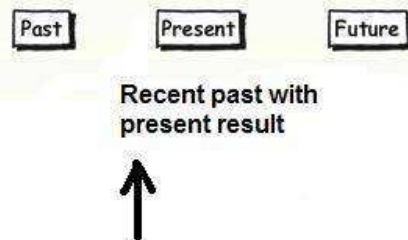
**Everything will be OK.**

Present Perfect for Past to Present States & Actions



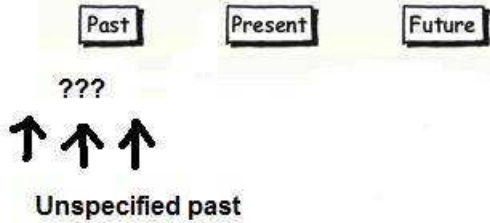
**She has spoken Russian for twenty years.**

Present Perfect to Express Recent Events



**Jack has just been to the bank.**

Present Perfect for Unspecified Past Events



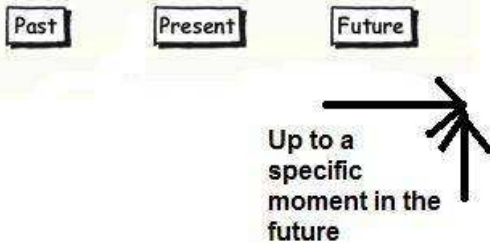
**Pete has been to New York three times.**

Present Perfect Continuous



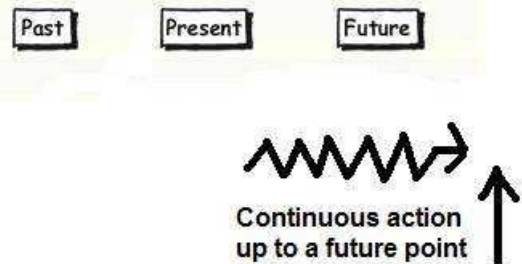
**She's been working since 10 this morning.**

Future Perfect



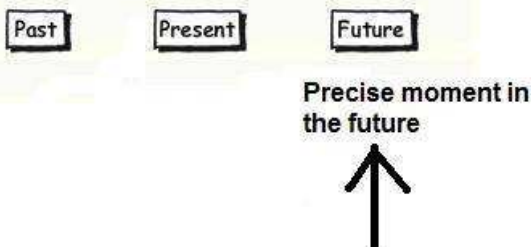
**We will have finished the report by Friday.**

Future Perfect Continuous



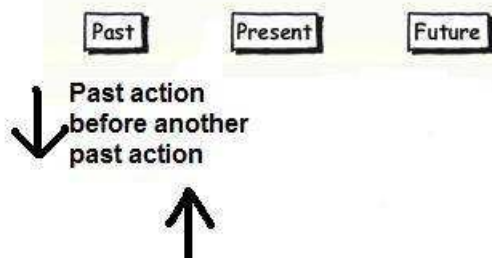
**We will have been studying for three hours by five p.m.**

Future Continuous



**We will be having lunch this time tomorrow.**

Past Perfect



**I had already eaten when you arrived.**

Past Perfect Continuous

Past

Present

Future



Past continuous  
action before  
something  
happened



**She had been waiting for two  
hours when he arrived.**