



B2 — Christmas chaos

Focus: Past simple, past continuous, past passive, present simple, present continuous, future simple, and future continuous tense aspects

Christmas and expectations

1. Do you usually plan your Christmas shopping early or at the last minute?
2. Have you ever bought something that looked perfect online but disappointed you in real life?
3. What are you planning to do this Christmas?



Vocabulary

Match the words to the meanings:

Word	Meaning
1. Delivery	A. To send something back.
2. Refund	B. A problem or difficulty.
3. To return.	C. The act of bringing goods.
4. Disappointed	D. Money given back.
5. Hassle	E. Feeling unhappy about an outcome.



“Kelso and the Christmas Tree”

Last week, Kelso decided to finally buy a Christmas tree online. He had compared prices for days, and while he was scrolling through reviews, he suddenly found the “perfect” plastic tree. Without thinking too much, he ordered it immediately. Two days later, the tree was delivered in a massive cardboard box. While Kelso was unpacking it, he already felt unsure about his decision. The branches looked thinner than expected, and the colour was slightly wrong. Even so, he tried to stay optimistic.

That evening, his partner came home from work. As soon as she saw the tree, she frowned and said, “I don’t like it at all.” They discussed the issue for a while, and in the end, the tree was returned the next morning. Unfortunately, Kelso had to pay an extra fee for the collection. By the time the refund arrived, he was slightly annoyed — not only with the company, but also with himself.

Now, Kelso is waiting for a real Christmas tree to arrive. He usually prefers natural decorations, and this experience has reminded him why. At the moment, he is checking delivery schedules every day to make sure nothing goes wrong again.

Next weekend, he will decorate the new tree properly. While others will be rushing through shopping centres, Kelso will be hanging lights and ornaments at home. He knows one thing for sure: next year, he will never order a tree online again.

Comprehension questions



1. Why did Kelso buy the tree online?
2. What was he doing while he found the tree?
3. How did he feel while unpacking it?
4. What happened to the tree in the end?
5. What is Kelso doing now?
6. What will he be doing next weekend?

Grammar spotlight

Tense	Example from the story	Use
Past simple	<i>Kelso decided to buy a tree.</i>	Completed past action.
Past continuous	<i>He was scrolling through reviews.</i>	Background action.
Past passive	<i>The tree was delivered.</i>	Focus on action, not person.
Present simple	<i>He prefers natural decorations.</i>	General truth.
Present continuous	<i>He is waiting for a real tree.</i>	Temporary situation.
Future simple	<i>He will decorate the tree.</i>	Decision / prediction.
Future continuous	<i>He will be hanging lights.</i>	Action in progress in the future.

Controlled practice — gap-fill activity

Fill in the correct tense:

1. While Kelso _____ (scroll) through reviews, he found the tree.
2. The Christmas tree _____ (deliver) two days later.
3. Right now, he _____ (wait) for the real tree.
4. Next weekend, he _____ (decorate) the tree with his partner.
5. While others _____ (rush) through shops, Kelso will be at home.



Tense transformation

Rewrite the sentences using the tense in brackets:

1. Kelso bought the Christmas tree online. (*past passive*)
2. He checks delivery updates every day. (*present continuous*)
3. He will decorate the tree tomorrow. (*future continuous*)
4. He was unpacking the box when his partner arrived. (*past simple*)





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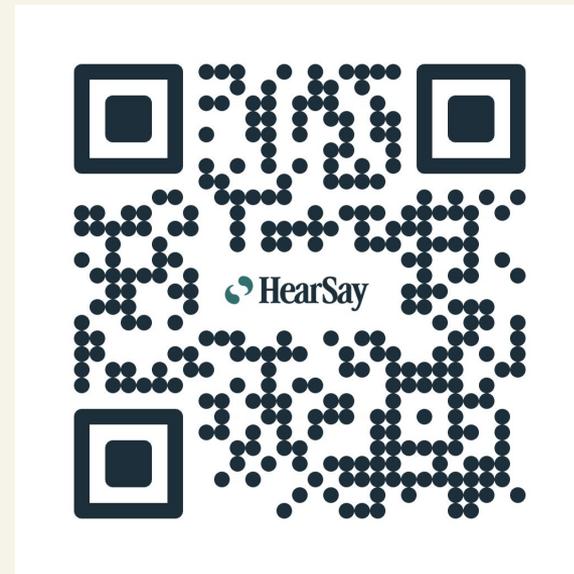
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“The Bridge Delay Debacle”



[Click here to listen to the conversation](#) (or scan the QR code, above)

*** *British accent*



Comprehension questions

Answer in full sentences.

1. What problem are Alice and Ben discussing?
2. When was the original design rejected?
3. What were they still doing last summer?
4. What will the council start next month?
5. What is the transport team planning at the moment?
6. What is going to happen by the end of the week?
7. Why does Alice think the media will cause chaos?
8. What will they be doing this time next year?





Grammar awareness and accuracy

Find one example from the dialogue for each tense below.

1. Past Simple _____
2. Past Continuous _____
3. Past Passive _____
4. Present Continuous _____
5. Future Simple (will) _____
6. Future with going to _____
7. Future with Present Continuous _____
8. Future Continuous _____



Student continuation task

Continue the dialogue between Alice and Ben with **FOUR** new lines.

Your continuation must include:

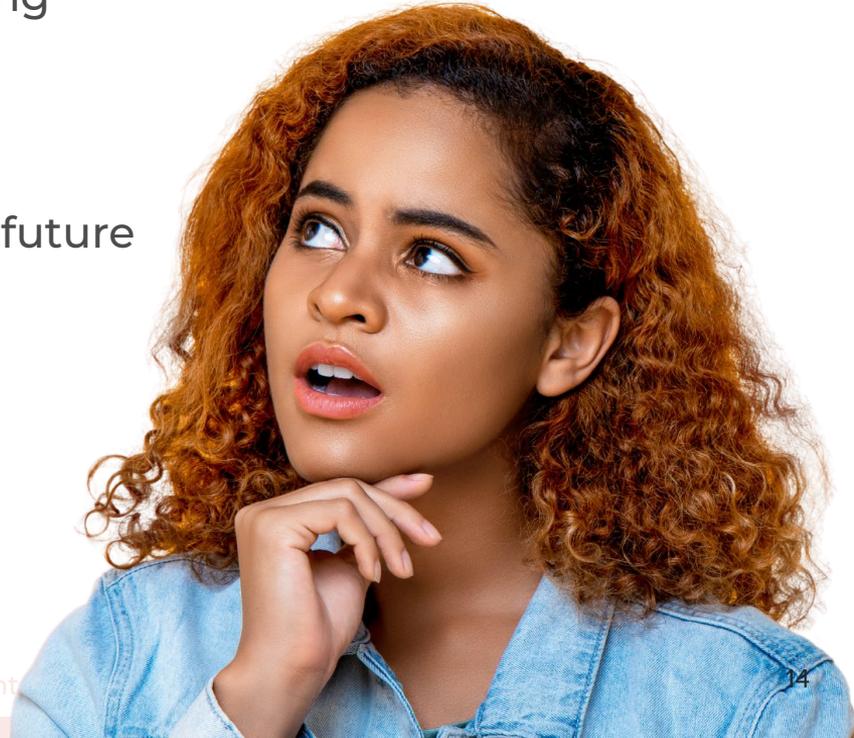
- ONE past tense
- ONE present continuous
- ONE future with will
- ONE future continuous

Scenario direction: The council has just made a public announcement, and commuters are reacting.

Speaking task — Real-life transfer

Tell a short story using at least FOUR different tenses:

- A past mistake you made buying something
- What you were doing at the time
- What is happening now because of it
- What you will / will be doing differently in future



Tense reference tables [1/5]

Past simple

Structure: *Subject + past verb / did + base verb*

- Affirmative: She bought the tree.
- Negative: She did not buy the tree.
- Question: Did she buy the tree?

Use:

- Completed actions in the past
- A sequence of past events
- Things that happened at a specific time

Example:

Kelso ordered the Christmas tree online.

Past continuous

Structure: *Subject + was / were + verb-ing*

Use:

- An action in progress in the past
- A background action
- Interrupted actions

Example:

Kelso was unpacking the tree when his partner arrived.

Tense reference tables [2/5]

Past passive

Structure: *Subject + was / were + past participle*

Use:

- When the focus is on the action, not the person
- Formal or factual descriptions
- When the doer is unknown or unimportant

Example:

The Christmas tree was delivered in a large box.



Tense reference tables [3/5]

Present simple

Structure: *Subject + base verb (+ s/es for he/she/it)*

Use:

- Daily routines
- Habits
- General facts
- Permanent situations

Example:

Kelso prefers natural Christmas decorations.

Present continuous

Structure: *Subject + am / is / are + verb-ing*

Use:

- Actions happening now
- Temporary situations
- Current trends
- Annoying habits (with always)

Example:

Kelso is waiting for the real Christmas tree.

Tense reference tables [4/5]

Future simple (will)

Structure: *Subject + will + base verb*

Use:

- Instant decisions
- Promises
- Predictions
- Future facts

Example:

Kelso will decorate the tree this weekend.

Future simple (be going to)

Structure: *Subject + am / is / are + going to + base verb*

Use:

- Planned decisions made before speaking
- Strong intentions
- Predictions based on present evidence

Example:

- *Kelso is going to decorate the tree as soon as it arrives.*
- *They are going to buy a real tree this time.*

Tense reference tables [5/5]

Future simple (present continuous)

Structure: *Subject + am / is / are + verb-ing*

Use:

- Fixed personal arrangements
- Plans that are already organised
- Appointments, social plans
- Pre-decided future actions
- Often used with a future time expression

Example:

- *Kelso is decorating the Christmas tree on Saturday.*
- *They are collecting the real tree tomorrow afternoon.*

Future continuous

Structure: *Subject + will be + verb-ing*

Use:

- An action in progress at a future time
- Polite questions about plans
- Background future actions

Example:

- *This time tomorrow, Kelso will be hanging Christmas lights.*

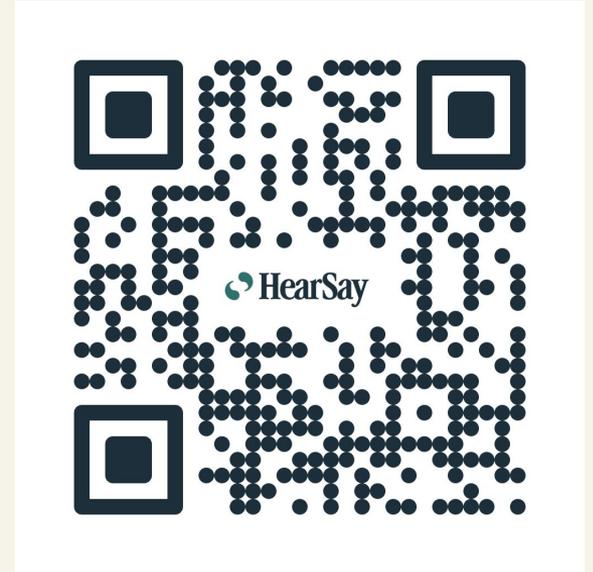
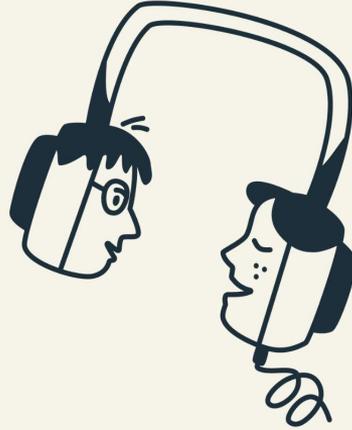
Future forms

Form	Main use
<i>Will</i>	Instant decision, promises, and predictions.
<i>Be going to</i>	Pre-planned intentions, evidence-based predictions.
<i>Present simple (for future)</i>	Timetables, schedules.
<i>Present continuous (for future)</i>	Fixed personal arrangements.





“When the Market Crashed”



[Click here to listen to the dialogue](#) (or scan the QR code, above)

*** *American accent*



Comprehension questions

Listening or reading focus:

1. What were Elena and Marc able to do more often before the layoffs?
2. What trip were they planning last year?
3. Why didn't they go to Italy?
4. What does Elena regret about her past behaviour?
5. By when does Elena hope to have a new contract?
6. What was Marc doing last night?
7. How did things feel for them in the past, emotionally?
8. What do they expect their future summer to be like?





Tense control — Past and future

Complete the sentences using the correct tense:

1. Before the layoffs, Elena and Marc _____ (travel) a lot.
2. Last year, they _____ (plan) a big trip to Italy.
3. If the market _____ (not crash), they would be there now.
4. Elena _____ (worry) too much instead of focusing.
5. By June, Elena _____ (secure) a new contract.
6. Last night, Marc _____ (update) the project timelines.
7. This time next year, Elena _____ (work) on something big.
8. If the contracts come through, they _____ (celebrate) a very different summer.





Past versus future contrast

Sort the sentences into either, “*Past (reflection)*” or “*Future (Hope and plans)*”

- A. They used to travel before the layoffs.
- B. She will have secured a new contract by June.
- C. We were planning a trip to Italy.
- D. This time next year, I’ll be working on something big.
- E. If the market hadn’t crashed, we would be in Italy now.
- F. They’re going to celebrate a different kind of summer.



Thank you for your support.

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