Verb Tenses

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	simple past I studied last night. (action completed in the past)	simple present I study every day. (habitual action – past to present to future)	simple future I will study tomorrow. (action will occur in the future)
Continuous	past continuous I was studying when you called. (action begun in past, implies possible continuation after second past event)	present continuous I am studying right now. (action began in past, may continue into future)	future continuous I will be studying when you arrive. (continuous future action will continue to happen when another future action occurs)
Perfect	past perfect I had studied drawing before I began to study painting. (past action completed before second past action)	present perfect I have studied Chapter 1. (past action with indefinite time span)	future perfect He will have finished reading by the time you arrive. (future action will be completed by time another future action occurs)
Perfect Continuous	past perfect continuous I had been studying for two hours when my friends came over. (past continuous action occurring when second past action occurred)	present perfect continuous I have been studying for two hours. (action began in past and continues until now)	future perfect continuous I will have been studying for two hours by the time you arrive. (future continuous action will happening when another future action occurs)

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Chart adapted from Betty S. Azar, *Understanding &Using English Grammar*, Prentice-Hall, Inc: Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1981, pages 74-77.