

English Tense-Aspect-Mood

By [Roger Keays](#), 19 September 2011

Useful examples of the different tense/aspect/moods that are used in English.

potential	I can eat
hypothetical	I could eat
conditional	I would eat
deliberative	I should eat
optative	I might eat
obligatory	I must eat
obligatory	I have to eat
obligatory	I had better eat
dubitive	I will probably eat
future simple	I will eat
future simple	I am going to eat
predictive	I bet I eat
future prog	I will be eating, then
future perf	I will have eaten
fut perf prog	I will have been eating
promissive	I promise I will eat
not yey	I have not yet eaten
indicative	I eat
past habitual	I used to eat
presumptive	Even if I eat, I will still be hungry
comparitive	I eat more than you
comparitive	I eat faster than you
permissive	May I eat?
jussive	Please, may I eat?
hortative	Let's eat
imperitive	Eat!
progressive	I am eating
prog cont	I am still eating
prohibitive	Don't eat!
recent past	I just ate
past prog	I was eating
past simpl	I ate
pres perf	I have eaten

pres perf cont I have been eating
speculative I could have eaten
past perf I had eaten
past perf cont I had been eating
deductive I must have eaten too much

About Roger Keays



Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. He has no fixed address and has left footprints on 40-something different countries around the world.

Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, the proper use of semicolons, and finding good food.

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