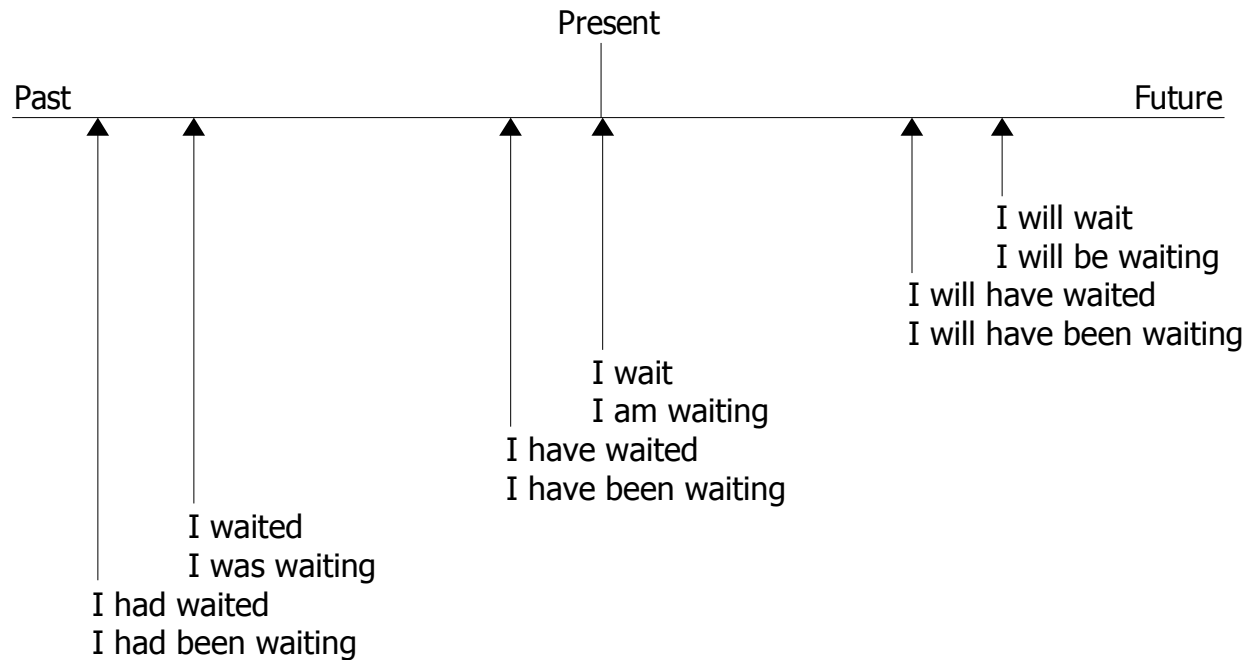


TIME CHART EXPLANATIONS

To visualize time, we use time line charts. Past to Present to Future is indicated from left to right. A vertical line going through the time line indicates action. A horizontal arrow indicates that something is in progress. 1 and 2 indicate the order of events when the specific time is not important.

VERB TENSE CONTINUUM

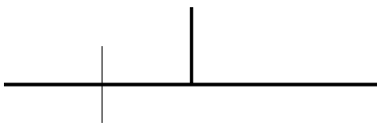

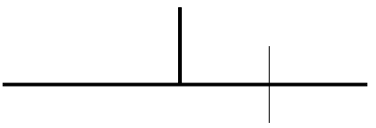

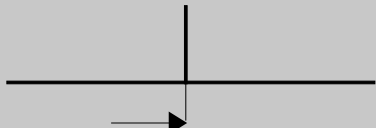

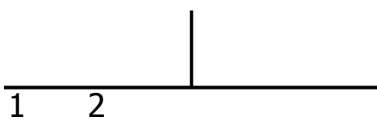
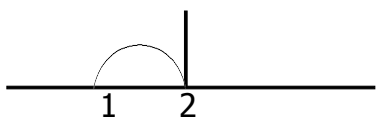
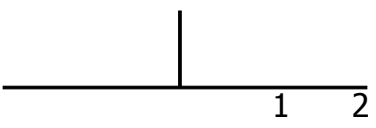

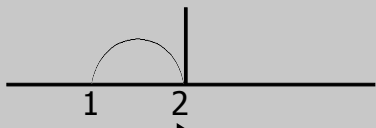



As you can see, the use of *have* as an auxiliary verb indicates action just before another time or event. The use of *be* and an *-ing* ending means in progress at that time. The use of *have been -ing* indicates both.

The only English verb tenses that have exact French equivalents are the *Past Perfect*, which matches the *plus-que-parfait* tense and the *Future Perfect*, which matches the *futur antérieur* tense. For all other tenses, word for word translation is useless. It is the meaning that must be translated. Follow the diagrams.

Remember: The verb *be* is ALWAYS an exception. There is no *Conditional* tense in English. We use *Modal Auxiliaries* (*could, should, etc.*) instead. These are not the only uses of these verb tenses, but only the main ones.

A VISUAL OVERVIEW OF VERB TENSES

	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
SPECIFIC TIME	 <p>She worked <u>yesterday</u>.</p>	<p>SIMPLE</p>  <p>She works <u>every day</u>.</p>	 <p>She will work again <u>tomorrow</u>.</p>
	 <p>She was working <u>at 9 AM this morning</u>.</p>	<p>PROGRESSIVE</p>  <p>She is working <u>right now</u>.</p>	 <p>She will be working <u>at 6 PM tonight</u>.</p>
UNSPECIFIED TIME	 <p>When she retired, she had worked all her life.</p>	<p>PERFECT</p>  <p>So far, she has worked all her life.</p>	 <p>When she retires, she will have worked all her life.</p>
	 <p>When she retired, she had been working <u>for 40 years</u>.</p>	<p>PERFECT PROGRESSIVE</p>  <p>She has been working <u>for 40 years</u>.</p>	 <p>When she retires, she will have been working <u>for 40 years</u>.</p>