

CHAPTER II – MOODS, TENSES, VOICES AND SPEECH IN MORE DETAIL

1. INDICATIVE MOOD

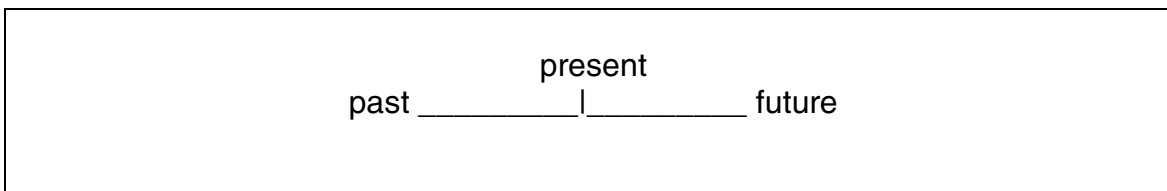
The indicative mood is **used to express a sure fact**. Below is a table of all the twelve tenses frequently used in the indicative mood. The first six are basic tenses. You have to know them to be able to communicate and read simple texts in Portuguese. The last six tenses are for more advanced students. Practice them after the first six are mastered.

Portuguese	English
Eu falo com ele todos os dias.	I talk to him every day.
Eu estou falando com ele agora.	I am talking to him now.
Eu estava falando com ele quando você chegou.	I was talking to him when you arrived.
Eu falei com ele (ontem).	I have talked/talked to him (yesterday).
Eu falava com ele todos os dias.	I used to talk to him every day.
Eu vou falar com ele depois.	I am going to/will talk to him later.
Eu falarei com ele depois.	I am going to/will talk to him later.
Eu falaria com ele outra vez.	I would talk to him again.
Eu tenho falado muito com ele.	I have been talking a lot to him (lately).
Eu já tinha falado com ele sobre isso.	I had already talked to him about this.
Eu terei falado com ele em dois dias.	I will have talked to him in two days.
Eu teria falado com ele de novo.	I would have talked to him again.

Remark: The last four tenses (perfect tenses) are formed with the auxiliary verb *ter* (to have) + the past participle. For **regular verbs**, the past **participle ends in ado/ido**. For **irregular verbs**, the past **participle varies**. See table below.

Portuguese		English	
verb	past participle	verb	past participle
abrir	aberto	to open	opened
cobrir	coberto	to cover	covered
descobrir	descoberto	to discover	discovered
dizer	dito	to say	said
escrever	escrito	to write	written
fazer	feito	to make/do	made/done
ganhar	ganho/ganhado	to win/earn	won/earned
gastar	gasto/gastado	to spend	spent
pagar	pago/pagado	to pay	paid
pôr	posto	to put	put
ver	visto	to see	seen
vir	vindo	to come	come

1.1. Simple present (presente)



The simple present tense is **used to express habitual actions, that is, to talk about things in general, something that often happens or something true**. It is not used for an action that is happening now, that is, at the moment of speaking. In this case, the present continuous tense is used. The simple present tense is often used with adverbs or adverbial phrases like *always, often, never, normally, every day, once a year*, etc. Sometimes the simple present tense is **used to express future time**. These sentences usually contain future time words. The simple present tense can also be **used for dramatic narrative**. It is often used by radio and TV commentators at sports events to describe an action. If a temporal clause like *for + period of time*, or *it is + period of time + since* is used, the simple present is equivalent in English to the present perfect or to the present perfect continuous (See last three examples).

Remarks:

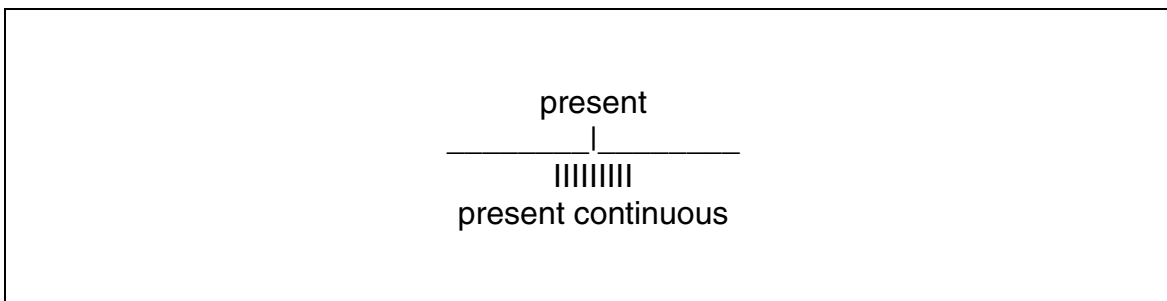
- Regular verbs ending in **ar** make the simple present tense by adding **o/a/amos/am**; verbs ending in **er** by adding **o/e/emos/em** and verbs ending in **ir** by adding **o/e/imos/em** to the stem.
- The **simple present** tense is the tense with the **most irregular verbs** in Portuguese. Because both the present subjunctive and the imperative are formed from the simple present indicative, irregular verbs in the present indicative are also irregular in the present subjunctive and in the imperative.

Portuguese	English
Eles jogam tênis quase todos os dias.	They play tennis almost every day.
Ele trabalha num banco.	He works in a bank.
Eu falo com você amanhã, tá bom?	I will talk to you tomorrow, ok?
Eu ligo para você depois.	I will call you later.
Faz tempo que eu não falo com ela.	I haven't talked to her for a long time.
Faz um ano que ela mora aqui.	She has been living here for one year.
Estou doente desde semana passada.	I have been sick since last week.



Ele **trabalha** numa empresa.
He **works** in a company.

1.2. Present continuous (presente contínuo)

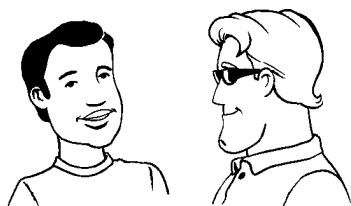


The present continuous, also called progressive form, is **used to express an action happening now, that is, at the moment of speaking or in a period around now** (this week/year). The present continuous tense is also **used to express a gradual development**. Unlike English, in Portuguese, the present continuous cannot be used to express future time when the idea of the sentence concerns a planned event (or definite intention) in the near future. In this case, the simple future should be used. Note that if a temporal clause like *for + period of time*, or *since* is used, the present continuous is equivalent in English to the present perfect continuous (See last two examples).

Remarks:

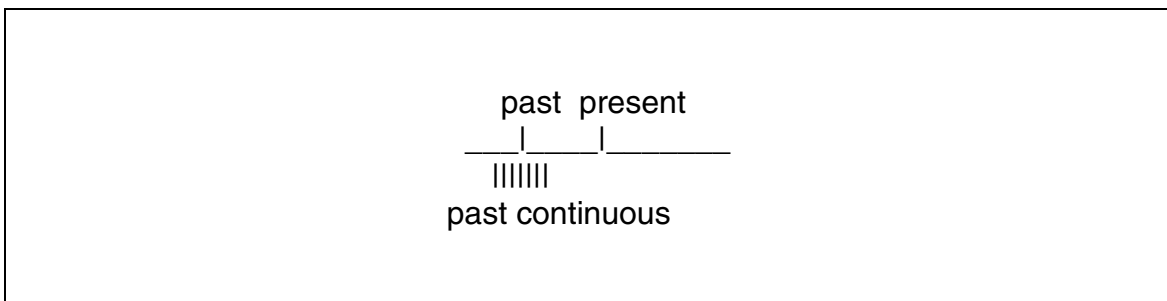
- The present continuous tense is formed with the present tense of the auxiliary verb *estar* (to be) + the present participle (ndo).
- The Portuguese **ndo** form is equivalent to the English **ing** form.
- To turn a verb into **ndo** in Portuguese, just drop the **r** from the infinitive and add **ndo**. e.g. falar > fala > **falando** (to speak > speaking).
- In Portuguese all verbs, except for the verb *estar* (to be), can be used to form the present continuous tense.

Portuguese	English
Vocês estão gostando da festa?	Are you enjoying the party?
O que você está fazendo ?	What are you doing ?
O telefone está tocando .	The phone is ringing .
Eu estou aprendendo português.	I am learning Portuguese.
Está esfriando cada vez mais.	It is getting colder and colder.
Faz dez dias que ele está viajando .	He has been travelling for ten days.
Ele está dormindo desde ontem.	He is been sleeping since yesterday.



Eles **estão conversando**.
They **are talking**.

1.3. Past continuous (passado contínuo)



The past continuous tense is **used to say that somebody was in the middle of an action at a certain time in the past when another action occurred**. It is also **used to express two past actions in progress simultaneously**.

Remarks:

- The past continuous tense is formed with the past tense (imperfect) of the auxiliary verb *estar* (to be) + the present participle (ndo).
- The Portuguese **ndo** form is equivalent to the English **ing** form.
- To turn a verb into **ndo** in Portuguese, just drop the **r** from the infinitive and add **ndo**. e.g. *falar* > *fala* > **falando** (to speak > speaking).
- In Portuguese all verbs except for the verb *estar* (to be) can be used to form the past continuous tense.

Portuguese	English
Eu estava dormindo quando você chegou.	I was sleeping when you arrived.
Estava chovendo quando eu saí de casa.	It was raining when I left home.
Eles estavam almoçando quando o telefone tocou.	They were having lunch when the phone rang.
O que você estava fazendo lá?	What were you doing there?
Eu estava conversando com a minha irmã enquanto ele estava lendo .	I was talking to my sister while he was reading .



Ele **estava lendo** o jornal quando cheguei em casa.
He **was reading** the newspaper when I got home.