

This story is written about the picture on page 30 of *Focus on Grammar 5*.

Present time frame (Read the story from left to right, top to bottom.)

	Actions, events, or states that are true, in general	Something that is true now for stative (non-action) verbs	Actions, events, or states that happen habitually	Narration of past events in sequence
Simple present	Marriage requires hard work, love, and loyalty.	Unfortunately, Thomas doesn't love me anymore.	I complain to him, but he just tells me to stop talking.	Last week, we had a big fight. He comes into the room, looks at me, and shakes his head in disgust. I tell him, "Enough is enough! I want a divorce!"

	Temporary states or actions that are not finished yet	Something happening now or in the extended present for action verbs	Repetition or duration (with "always" or "constantly", it indicates something annoying or shocking)
Present progressive	Thomas is living with his sister now, and I am regretting what I said.	The problem is that Thomas is always doing something to hurt my feelings.

	Something beginning in the past and continuing to the present. Often used with "for" + a length of time or "since" + a starting point	A general completed action or experience up to now in life (something in one's "bag of life experiences")	A recently completed event or state, often with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "already" (statement) • "still" • "recently" • "yet" (question) • "just" (very recent)
Present perfect	We have been married - for such a long time. - since we finished university. - since 1975.	During that time, I have never even looked at another man.	I have recently found out, however, that Thomas has had several affairs.

	Something beginning in the past and continuing to the present that is temporary or not finished yet		
Present perfect progressive	I realize now that our marriage has been slowly dying for many years. I don't know what happened.		

Past time frame (Read the story from left to right, top to bottom.)

	A general truth or habit in the past (often with an adverb of frequency)	A definite, single, completed action or state in the past
Simple past	When we were dating, we enjoyed each other's company a lot and loved each other very much.	We got married on June 10, 1960.
	An action in progress (not finished) at a specific time in the past	
Past progressive	When I said, "I do", my heart was beating wildly.	
	An action, event or state completed before a certain time in the past, often with "by the time", "when", "before", "after", and "because"	
Past perfect	We had only known each other for three months (before/when we got married).	
	An action (continuous or repeated) that began before another past event and that was temporary or not finished yet	
Past perfect progressive	Many people had been telling me that we were rushing things.	
	Use "was/were going to" or "would" + base form of the verb to describe an action, event, or state that was planned or expected in the past	
Future in the past	We were going to elope [past plan], but we knew that our parents would object [past prediction]. I should have listened to my friends' advice and not married him.	
	Use "used to" + base form of the verb to show habitual action, event, state, location, or possession in the past	Use "would" + base form of the verb to express actions, habits, events, and predictable behaviours that occurred regularly during a period in the past.
Past habits, states, locations	I used to respect him, but began to hate him because he would always ignore me, like he was doing when this picture was taken.

Future Time Frame (Continue reading the story in the order of the numbers in boxes.)

	A promise or unplanned future action made at the moment of speaking	A planned future action	A prediction or guess
“will”	1. Although I have had some doubts about what I told him last week, I will go ahead and divorce him.	No	5. I am sure that they will be shocked when they hear the news. [A strong prediction.]
“be going to”	No	4. Thomas and I are going to pick them up together. [Gives the idea of a prior plan.]	[An informal prediction.]
Future progressive	No	[Seems more in the future, could change.]	No
Present progressive	No	2. Our son and family are coming to visit us tomorrow. [Seems closer to the present, quite sure.]	No
Simple present	No	3. Their plane <u>arrives</u> at 8:00am. [This is a fixed schedule, seems very sure, won't change.]	No

	A future action that is in an adverb clause (often used with <i>after, when, until, before, as soon as</i>)	
Simple present	7. When we get home, we're going to sit them down and tell them.	

	An action in progress at a specific time in the future, an interrupted action, or two actions happening at the same time.	Used to express the duration of some future action, usually with “for” + a length of time.
Future progressive	8. It's scary to think that at this time tomorrow, we will be explaining our situation to the people we love the most. They will be so surprised and sad.	9. They will be thinking about this shocking news for a long time.

	An action, state, or event that will happen before a certain time in the future, often with <i>by</i> + a certain time or <i>by the time</i> + clause	The duration of a future event for stative verbs.
Future perfect	10. I hope that by my birthday we will have finalized the divorced.	11. The process will likely have taken 2 months. I'll be so relieved when it's all over.

	An action, state, or event that began before a certain time in the future and isn't finished yet, often with “for” + a length of time	
Future perfect	6. By the time their plan arrives, they will have been travelling for 9 hours. There isn't a simple route to go from Halifax to Saskatoon.	