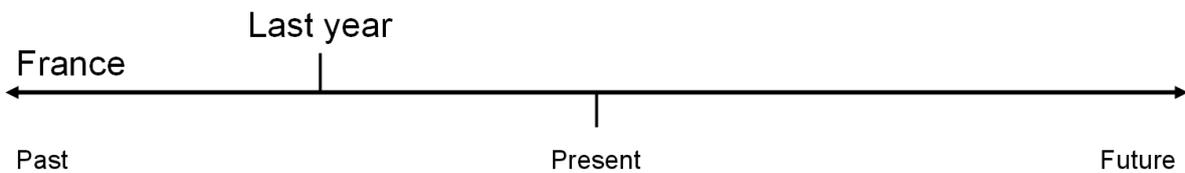
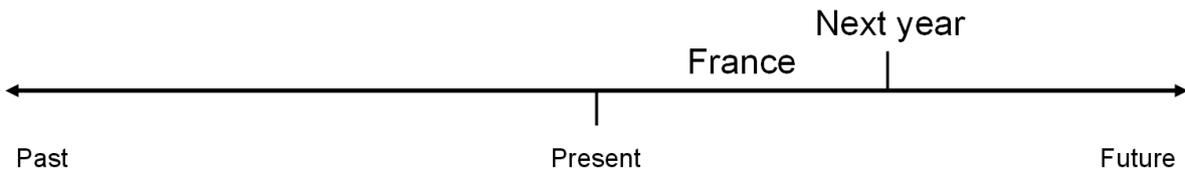


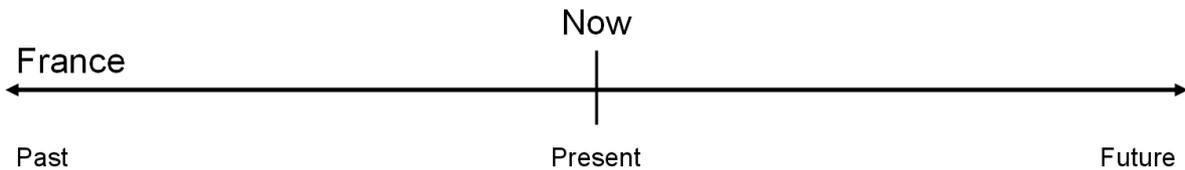
- The past perfect introduces a new point in time in the past
 - They had been to France already before last year



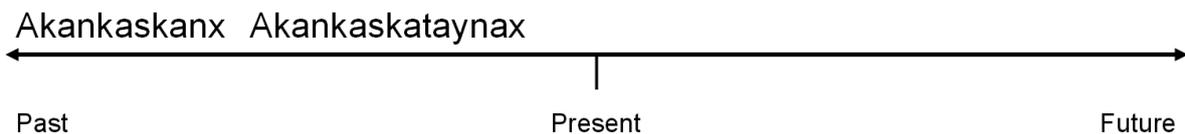
- The future perfect introduces a new point in time in the future
 - They will have been to France by next year



- The present perfect introduces a new point in time at the present
 - They have been to France already



- This is useful for emphasising the relationship between a past event and the present
- Metrical Tenses
 - All the tenses we've seen so far are based on a simple division of time into past, present, and future
 - The past tense tells you that an event happened in the past, but it doesn't tell you when in the past it happened
 - However, some languages have tenses that refer to more specific periods of time
 - Tenses that make these finer distinctions are called metrical tenses
 - One such language is Aymara, which is spoken in Peru
 - Aymara has a recent past tense, for things that happened recently, and a remote past tense, for thing that happened longer ago
 - Akankaskataynax
'She was here (recently)'
 - Akankaskanx
'She was here (long ago)'



- There are languages closer to home that can also make this sort of distinction
- French has a special way of referring to the recent past
 - Elle vient d'être ici
'She's just been here'
(literally, 'She's coming from being here')
- Other languages have systems that are even more complicated, with one tense for earlier today and another tense for yesterday

- In these languages, the verbs most likely to use ‘be’ refer to motion (e.g. ‘come’, ‘go’) or a change of state (e.g. ‘become’, ‘be born’, ‘die’)
- Other languages use ‘be’ for the perfect of all verbs, as in Finnish
 - Olen laulanut
‘I have sung’ (literally, ‘Am sung’)
- Finnish (like Irish) is a language without a verb meaning ‘have’
- Instead of ‘I have a book’, people say ‘A book is at me’
- Irish doesn’t use an auxiliary for the perfect at all
- Instead, Irish uses prepositions to form these tenses
 - Tá mé tar éis canadh
am I after singing
‘I have sung’
- Varieties of English that have been influenced by Irish do the same thing
 - I’m after singing
- For some people, this is a recent past, like in Aymara and French
- For other people, it simply means ‘I have sung’

Activity 2:

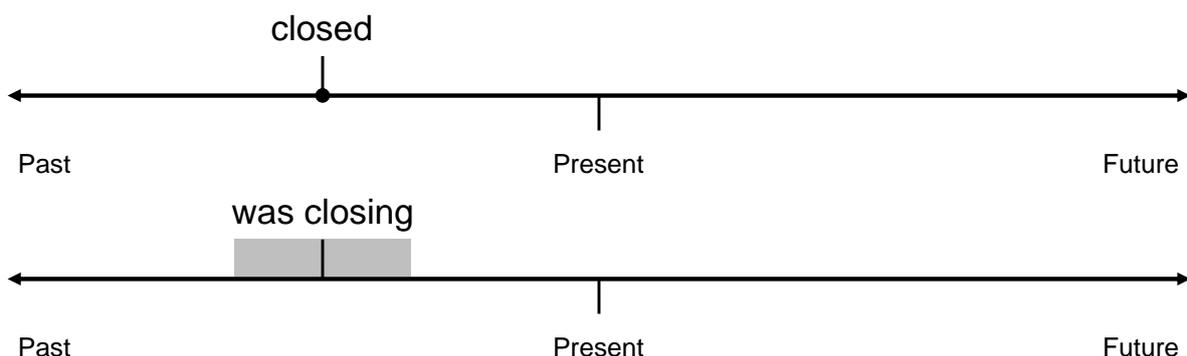
Consider these two sentences:

- I’m going to Paris
- I’m going to go to Paris

Take some time to see if you can see any difference between the two *goings*. How would you describe the difference?

Notes

- Aspect
 - The type of distinction expressed by aspect can be seen most easily by looking at examples from English
 - I was closing the door
 - I closed the door
 - In both these examples, the closing takes place at some point in the past
 - In the first sentence, the progressive (or continuous) past means that the door is still open, but closing is in progress
 - In the second sentence, the simple past makes it clear that closing is complete and the door was shut
 - You can visualise this difference using a timeline



- The actual time it takes to close the door may be the same whichever form you use
- The progressive form lets you select a single moment in this process, so you can talk about what else was happening then
 - I was closing the door when John squeezed through it
- The simple form lets you take the event as a whole and then move on to something else
 - I closed the door and left
- The progressive form doesn't specify whether an event is ever completed
 - I was closing the door when John squeezed through it
 - This might mean that the door never got closed at all
 - I closed the door and left
 - This can only mean that the door did get closed

Activity 3:

In English, the progressive present tends to be used more often than the simple present. Try to find examples of ways that you might use the simple present. Can you think what these examples have in common?

Example

- The type of aspect expressed by forms like the progressive present is called imperfective
- The type of aspect expressed by forms like the simple present is called perfective
- Many different languages make this sort of distinction

Language	Imperfective	Perfective
English	I was eating	I ate
Spanish	Comía	Comí
Polish	Jadłem	Zjadłem

- Some languages, such as Spanish, make this distinction only in the past tense
 - Remember that in English the simple present is relatively uncommon for many verbs
- In other languages, such as Polish, the perfective present forms are taken as referring to future time
 - In English the simple present can also refer to future events (e.g. *My plane leaves tomorrow*)
 - However, in English progressive presents can do this too (e.g. *My plane is leaving tomorrow*)
- Conclusion
 - Today we have looked at absolute tenses, which identify an event as past, present, or future
 - We have seen how relative tenses relate events both to the present and to another point in time
 - We have seen how metrical tenses measure distance in time
 - As well as tense, verbs can have imperfective or perfective aspect
 - Both tense and aspect can be expressed either by a single verb or by using an auxiliary with a verb