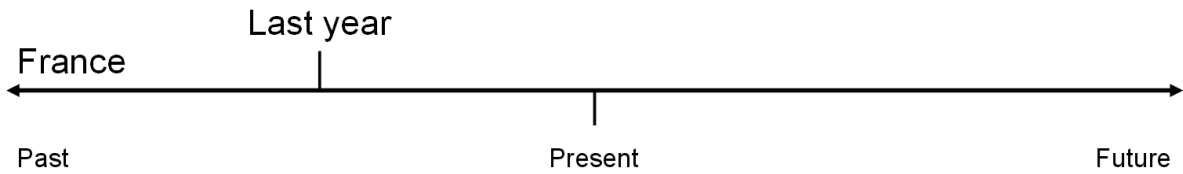
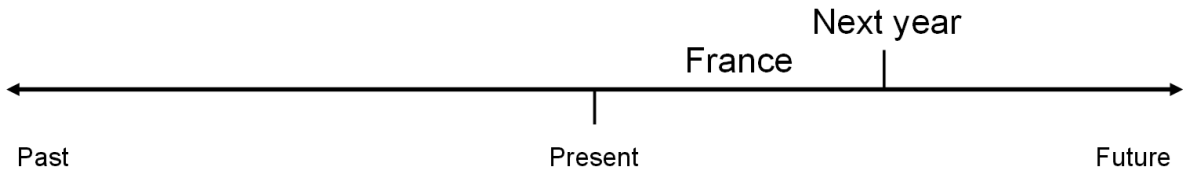


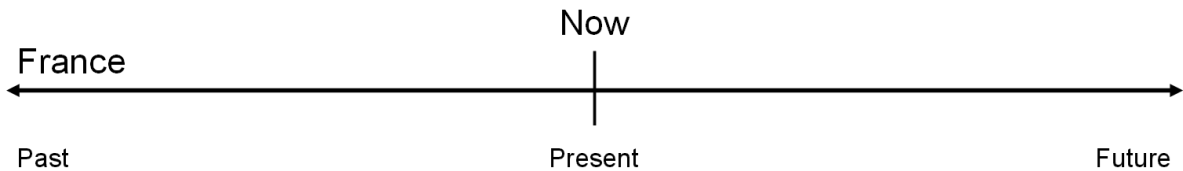
- The past perfect introduces a new point in time in the past
 - They had been to France already before last year



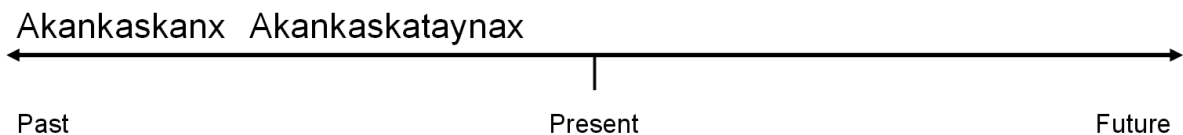
- The future perfect introduces a new point in time in the future
 - They will have been to France by next year



- 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)'



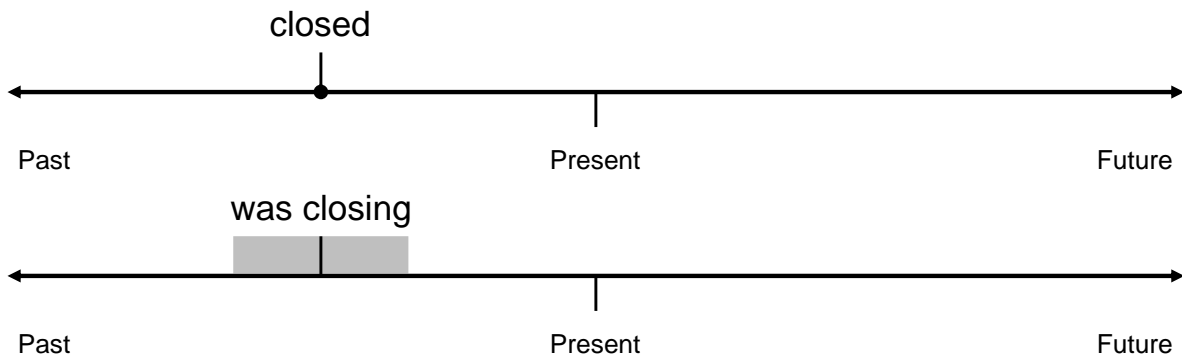
- Other languages have systems that are even more complicated, with one tense for earlier today and another tense for yesterday
- There are also languages closer to home that can also make this sort of distinction
- French has a special way of referring to the recent past
 - Elle vient d'être ici
'She's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

- French uses a combination of verbs to express what Aymara expresses with a special form of a single verb
- You may remember that verbs used with other verbs in this way are called auxiliaries
- Languages differ in whether they use auxiliaries, and where they use them
- Tense Formation
 - In English, the only tenses formed without an auxiliary are the present and the past; other languages require at least one auxiliary
 - Other languages, such as Latin, can form all the same tenses without auxiliaries

English	Latin
They stand	Stant
They stood	Stabant
They <u>will</u> stand	Stabint
They <u>have</u> stood	Steterunt
They <u>had</u> stood	Steterant
They <u>will have</u> stood	Steterint

- As a rule of thumb, the more basic a tense is, the less likely it is to need an auxiliary
- For example, there are more languages that use auxiliaries for the future perfect (*will have stood*) than for the present (*stand*)
- Different languages often choose similar auxiliaries for the same tenses
- For example, it is quite common for languages to use verbs meaning ‘have’ for the perfect
 - I have sung (English)
 - J’ai chanté (French)
 - Ich habe gesungen (German)
- Another common auxiliary for the perfect is ‘be’
- Some languages use ‘have’ with some verbs and ‘be’ with others, as in French
 - J’ai chanté
‘I have sung’
 - Je suis tombé
‘I have fallen’ (literally, ‘I am fallen’)
- 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’
- 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
- 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