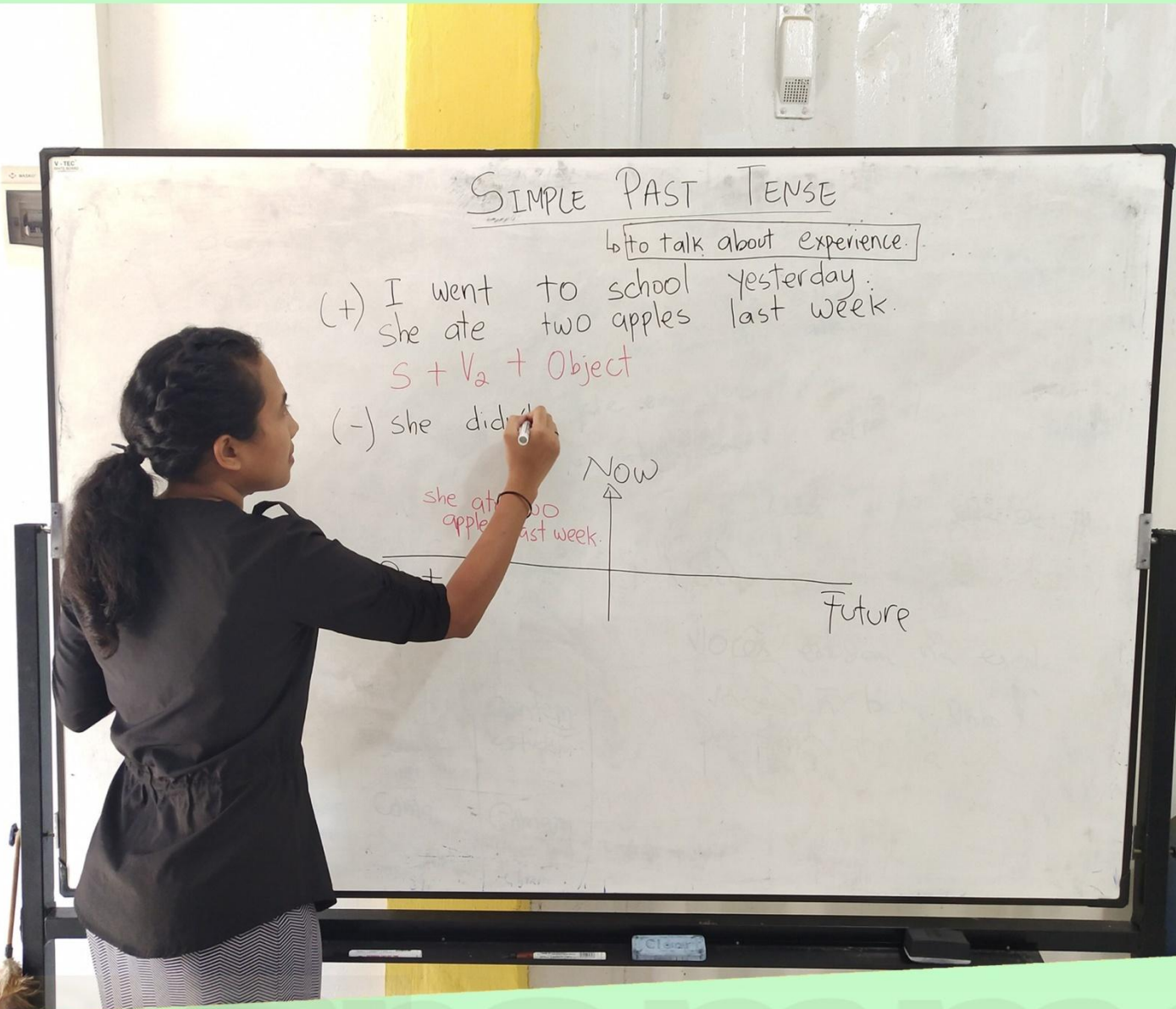# DIT English grammar teaching guide
Tense, aspect and frequency

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2019

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First Conditional

Function: To talk about possible future events and their results.

Form:

	Condition (if clause)				Result (main clause)			
(+)	If	+	it	+	rains,	+ I + will + wear + a rain coat
(+)	If	+	I	+	study hard,	+ I + will + pass + the exam
form	If	+ subject		+	present simple,	+ sub + will + inf + object
(-)	If	+	it	+	rains,	+ I + won't + wear + a rain coat
(-)	If	+	I	+	study hard	+ I + won't + fail + the exam
form	If	+ subject		+	present simple	+ sub + will not + inf + object

Note: the clauses can change place: *I won't fail the exam if I study hard.* If the result comes before the condition, then there is no comma.

(?)	Will + you + wear + a raincoat + if + it + rains	?
form	will + sub + inf + object + if + sub + present simple	?
(?)	What + will + you + wear + if + it + rains	?
form	Q word + will + sub + infinitive + If + Sub + Present simple	?

Timeline:

now

If it rains, I will wear a rain coat

? ? ? ?
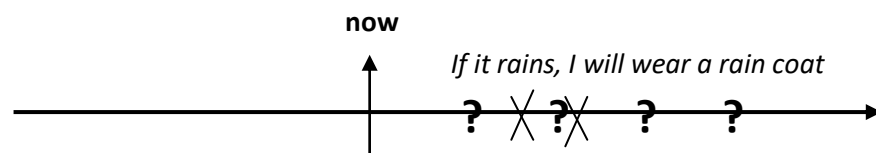
Concept Check Questions:
Are we talking about the present or the future? (future)
Is it going to happen in the future? (maybe)

Pronunciation:
Contraction I'll, you'll, we'll, they'll She'll, he'll, it'll and won't.

Comparison with Tetun

English uses tenses to distinguish things that have happened, are happening now, or might happen in the future. Tetun does not use tenses, instead using separate words to show time when requred. Tetun conditionals have a similar construction to English, with the condition usually coming first, and the result last.

Tetun conditionals mostly use *se*, *karik*, *se ... karik* together, or just rising intonation: E.g. *Se hau estuda makaas / Hau estuda makaas karik / Se hau estuda makaas karik / Hau estuda makaas, hau sei pasa ezame.* The auxiliary *sei* is like 'will' in that indicates a fairly high degree of certainty that an event will happen, in this case that I will pass the exam so long as I study hard.

Second Conditional

Function: To talk about an imagined situation.

Form: *Condition (if clause)*   *Result (main clause)*

(+)   If + I   + lived   + in a big city,   + I + 'd   + go   + out every night.
form   *if*   + *S*   + *PS*   + *object*   + *S* + *would*   + *inf*   + *object*

(-)   If + I   + won   + the lottery,   + I + wouldn't   + spend   + it all.
form   *if*   + *S*   + *PS*   + *object*   + *S* + *would not*   + *inf*   + *object*

Note: the clauses can change place: *I'd go out every night if I lived in a big city.* If the result comes before the condition, then there is no comma.

(?)   What + would   + you + do   + if + you + won   + the lottery?
Form   *Q W*   + *would*   + *sub*   + *inf*   + *if*   + *sub*   + *PS*   + *object*

Timeline:

I would visit Dubai if I won the lottery.

now

?   ?   ?
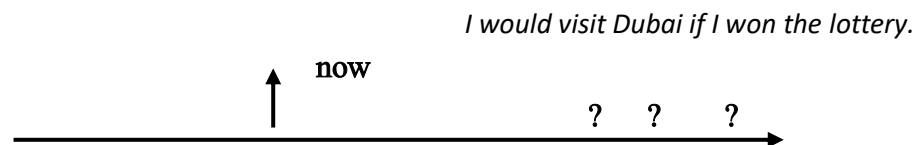
Concept Check Questions:
Are we talking about past, present or future? (future or present – but emphasis on the situation being **imaginary** so the time reference doesn't matter so much)
Do I live in a big city? (no)
Am I going to live in a big city? (we don't know)
Do I go out every night? (no)
Will I go out every night? (yes)
Is this a real or imagined situation? (imaginary)

Rising intonation- Y/N Question
Falling intonation - open ended question
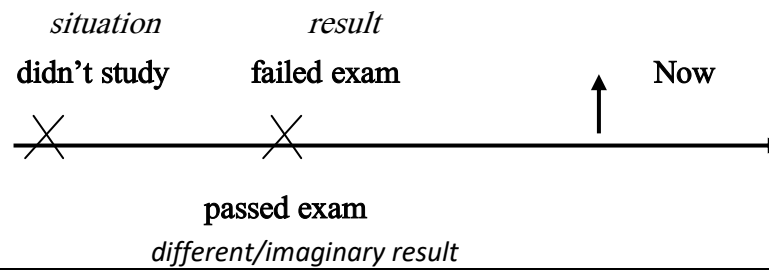
Pronunciation:
Question intonation
Contractions: wouldn't

Comparison with Tetun

English uses tense to distinguish between real and unreal conditions. Tetun does not have any way to reliably distinguish these. Conditional clauses can be marked by *se, karik, se...karik* and rising intonation. All of these can be used for both likely and imagined conditions. The best option to suggest unreality is probably *se...karik*, as both *se* and *karik* indicate uncertainty. E.g: *Se hau iha liras karik, hau sei semo ba Inglatera* (unreal), *Se hau hatama hau nia liman ba bee laran, hau nia liman sei bokon* (can be real or unreal).

Third Conditional

Function: To talk about imagining a different result to a situation in the past.

Form: *Condition (if clause)*   *Result (main clause)*

(+)   If + I   + 'd studied   + I   + 'd have   + passed   my exam.
form   *if* + *S* + *Past perefect*   + *S* + *would*   + *Past part*

(-)   If + I   + hadn't eaten too much   + I   + wouldn't have + been   sick.
form   *if* + *S* + *PS*   + *S* + *would not have*   + *Past part*

Note: the clauses can change place: *If I had studied I'd have passed my exam.* If the result comes before the condition, then there is no comma.

(?)   Would + you   + have   + passed   + the exam   + if   + you   + had studied?
Form   *would*   + *S*   + *have*   + *Past Part* + *obj*   + *if*   + *S*   + *Past perfect*

Timeline:

situation   *result*

didn't study   failed exam   Now

passed exam

different/imaginary result

Comparison with Tetun

Modal Verbs

Function   To talk about certainty and possibility.

Form:

(+)	I	+	will	+	visit	+	Jaco next month.
(+)	He	+	must	+	be	+	in the office today.
(+)	They	+	may/might	+	visit	+	Bali next month
form	*subject*	*+*	*modal verb*	*+*	*verb*	*+*	*object*

(-)	He	+	won't	+	visit	+	Jaco next month.
(-)	We	+	must not	+	visit	+	him next month.
(-)	They	+	might not	+	visit	+	Bali next month.
form	*subject*	*+*	*MV + not*	*+*	*verb*	*+*	*object*

(?)	Will	+	he	+	visit	+	Jaco next month?
form	*MV*	*+*	*subject*	*+*	*verb*	*+*	*object*
(?)	When	+	will	+	he	+	visit	+	Baucau?
form	*Q words*	*+*	*modal verb*	*+*	*subject*	*+*	*verb*	*+*	*object*

Timeline:
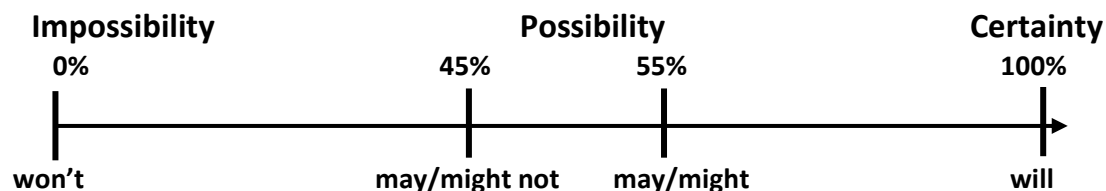
Impossibility   Possibility   Certainty
0%   45%   55%   100%

won't   may/might not   may/might   will

Comparison with Tetun

The problems students might have with modal verbs are:

- It is very common for students to use 'to' after modal verbs, based on analogy with verbs such as 'want'; e.g. 'I must to eat rice.'

- Students sometimes add -s, -ed, or -ing to the verbs after modal verbs instead of using the infinitive, e.g. 'I will playing guitar tonight.'

- Students often form questions simply by adding question intonation., e.g. 'You will visit us tomorrow?' This is by analogy with Tetun *Ita sei vizita ami aban?*

English has a range of auxiliaries to express certainty and possibility. Tetun has *sei* 'will' for certainty, and adverbs such as *karik* and *dala ruma* for possibility.

Adverbs of Frequency

Function   To say how often you do something.

Form:

(+)   I   +   always   +   get up   +   early.
form   *sub* + *adv.freq* + *verb*   + *complement*

(-)   I   +   don't   +   always   +   get up   +   early.
form   *sub* + *don't*   +   *Adv.freq* + *verb*   + *complement*

(?)   Do/does   ₊ you/she   +   always   +   get up   +   early?
Form   *Do/does* ₊ *subject*   + *adv.freq* + *verb*   + *complement*

(+)   She   ₊ is   + often   + late to English class
form   *sub*   ₊ *to be*   + *Adv.freq* + *Complement*

(-)   She   ₊ isn't   + often   + Late to English class
form   *sub*   ₊ *be + not* + *Adv.freq* + *object*

(?)   Is   ₊ she   + often   + late to English class?
form   *To be*   ₊ *subject* + *Adv.freq* + *object*

(?)   Why   ₊ is   + she   + often   + late to English class?
form   *QW*   ₊ *to be*   + *subject* + *Adv.freq* + *complement*

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Concept Check Questions:

Do I do it every day? (refers to the percentage in timeline, or concept check with sentences)

Adv.of freq. goes <u>before</u> the main <u>verb.</u> ("usually and sometimes") can also go at the beginning of the sentences

Adv.of freq. goes <u>after </u>the verb <u>be</u>

Scale of frequency:

sempre	*baibain*	*beibeik*	*dala ruma*	*kuaze nunka*	*nunka*
always	usually	often	sometimes	hardly ever	never
100%	80%	60%	40%	10%	0%
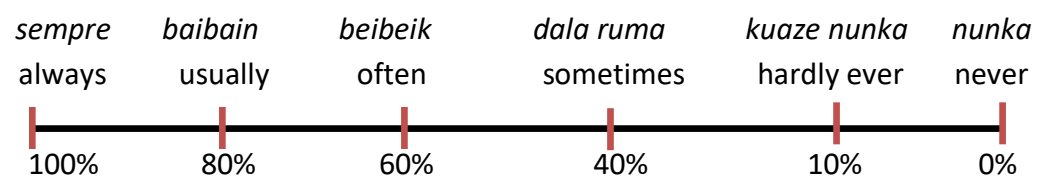
Comparison with Tetun

The concept and usage of adverbs of frequency in Tetun and English are quite similar. As in English, many adverbs of frequency normally precede the verb (e.g. *sempre, nunka, dala ruma*). An exception is *bebeik,* which normally comes after the verb.

When teachers give examples in English, it would be better to translate some of the sentences into Tetun, so that students can better see and understand the meaning and how to use adverbs of frequency in English.

Future Simple: 'will'

Function: To talk about future plans.

Form:

| (+) | We | + | 'll | + | build | + | a new house next month. |
| form | subject | + | will | + | infinitive | + | object |

| (-) | We | + | won't | + | build | + | a new house next month. |
| form | subject | + | will not | + | infinitive | + | object |

(?)	Will	+	we	+	build	+	a new house next month?
form	will	+	subject	+	infinitive	+	object
(?)	When	+	will	+	we	+	build	+	a new house?
form	QW	+	will	+	subject	+	Infinitive	+	object?

Timeline:

now   *we will build a new house*

Comparison with Tetun

The usage of the future simple is similar in English and Tetun. In English, future tense uses 'will' with an infinitive verb, while in Tetun, we use *sei* plus a verb.

The structure of negatives is basically the same, with English using 'will not' and Tetun *sei la,* e.g. *Ami sei la harii uma foun.* 'We will not build a new house.' The main difference is that Tetun does not use contractions such as English 'won't'.

The structure of questions is however very different, as Tetun does not reorder the auxiliary and subject. In Tetun, yes-no questions are normally formed simply by adding a final *ka* or *ka lae*, e.g. *Ami sei harii uma foun ka lae?* 'Will we build a new house?'

Future: be going to

Function: Use *be going to* + verb to talk about future plans.

Form:

(+)	I	+	'm	+	going to	+	do	+	homework tonight.
(+)	He/she	+	's	+	going to	+	watch	+	football match tomorrow.
(+)	They	+	're	+	going to	+	have	+	lunch together on Saturday.
form	*subject*	+	*to be*	+	*going to*	+	*infinitive*	+	*object*

(-)	I	+	'm not	+	going to	+	do	+	homework tonight
(-)	she/he/	+	isn't	+	going to	+	watch	+	football match tomorrow
(-)	you/we	+	're not	+	going to	+	have	+	lunch together next Saturday
form	*subject*	+	*be + not*	+	*going to*	+	*infinitive*	+	*object*

(?)	Is	+ she/he	+	going to	+	watch	+	football match tomorrow?
form	*be*	+ *subject*	+	*going to*	+	*infinitive*	+	*object*

(?)	When	+ is/are	+	she/they	+ going to	+ watch	+	football ?
Form	*Q word*	+ *be*	+	*Subject*	+ *going to*	+ *infinitive*	+	*object*

Timeline:

now

I'm going to do homework tonight

decision made in the past
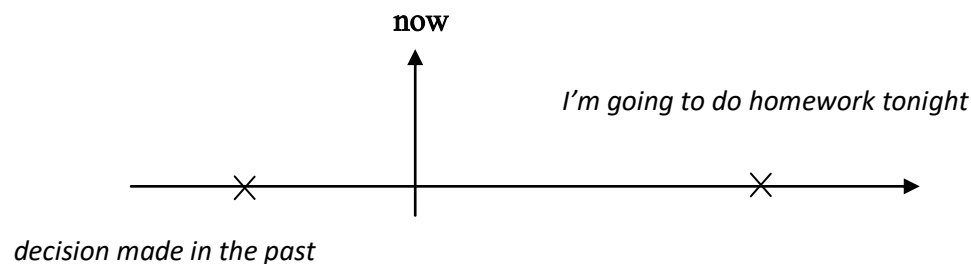
Concept Check Questions:

1) Are we talking about the future? (Yes)
2) Have I made a plan? (yes)

Pronunciation:

Contractions: isn't and aren't, he's/she's/it's and you're/we're/they're

Rising intonation- Y/N Question

Falling intonation - open ended question

Comparison with Tetun

Tetun has one word *sei* for both future plans and future predictions. E.g. *Hau **sei** rai osan ba hau nia oan* (plan). *Hau nia partidu sei manaan iha eleisaun* (prediction).

Present Simple

Function: To talk about routines or habits.

Form:

(+)	I/you	+	go	+	to school	+	everyday
form	subject	+	verb	+	object	+	adv. of time
(+)	She/he	+	goes	+	to school	+	each morning.
form	subject	+	verb+ -es/s	+	object	+	adv. of time

(-)	We/they	+	don't	+	go	+	to school
form	subject	+	don't	+	verb	+	object
(-)	She/he	+	doesn't	+	go	+	to school
form	subject	+	doesn't	+	infinitive	+	object

(?)	Do	+	I/you	+	go	+ to	+	every day?
						school		
form	do	+	subject	+	inf	+ object	+	adv. of time
(?)	Does	+	she/he	+	go	+ to	+	every day?
						school		
form	does	+	subject	+	inf	+ object	+	adv. of time

(?)	What	+	do	+	they	+ do	+	every day?
form	Q word	+	do	+	sub	+ infinitive	+	adv. of time
(?)	What	+	does	+	he	+ do	+	every day?
form	Q word	+	does	+	sub	+ infinitive	+	adv. of time

Concept Check Questions:

Is this something I do every day?
Is it a routine / habit? (yes)
Does the situation happen at the
moment of speaking? (no)

*Verb added -s/-es /-ies to the 3rd
person singular in positive sentences*

*Verbs never change in the negative
and
question forms because of don't /
doesn't*

Rising intonation- Y/N Question

*Falling intonation - open ended
question*

Timeline:

now

go to school   go to school   go to school   go to school   go to school   go to school   **future**
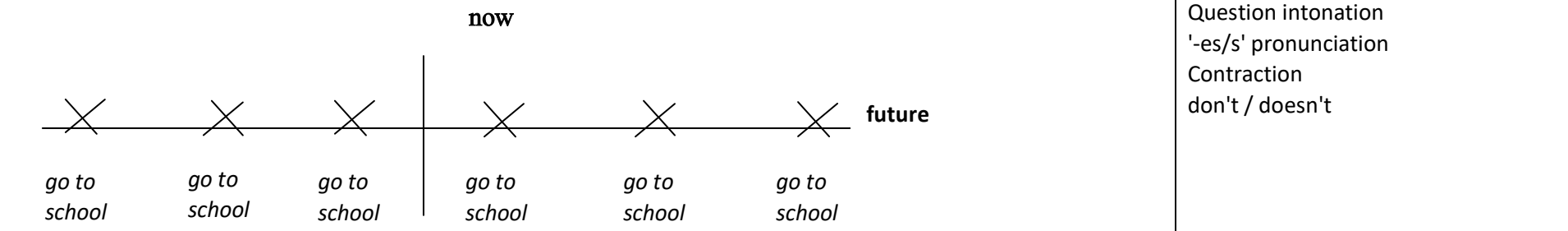
Pronunciation:

Question intonation
'-es/s' pronunciation
Contraction
don't / doesn't

Comparison with Tetun

Tetun Dili does not mark person on the verb, e.g. *Hau/nia baa eskola lor-loron* 'I go/she goes to school every day.'

Therefore students may forget to add *-s/-es/-ies* to the verb for 3rd person singular, and may sometimes use *don't* for 3rd person singular, instead of *doesn't*.

Students sometimes follow the question formula and reuse the auxiliary *do* in the answer to a question, e.g.

    Q: Where <u>do</u> you <u>go</u> every day?

    A: I <u>do go</u> to school every day.

Present Continuous (Current Action)

Function: To talk about a situation or an activity that happening at the moment of speaking.

Form:

(+)	He	+	is	+	watching	+	a movie now.		
(+)	They	+	are	+	watching	+	a movie now.		
form	*subject*	*+*	*verb be*	*+*	*verb+ing*	*+*	*object*		

(-)	I	+	am not	+	watching	+	the film now		
form	*subject*	*+*	*be+not*	*+*	*verb+ing*	*+*	*object*		

(?)	Are	+	they	+	watching	+	the film now?		
form	*verb be*	*+*	*subject*	*+*	*verb+ing*	*+*	*object*		
(?)	Where	+	are	+	they	+	going	+	now?
form	*Q word*	*+*	*verb be*	*+*	*subject*	*+*	*verb+ing*	*+*	*adv. of time*

Timeline:

We are watching a movie.

now
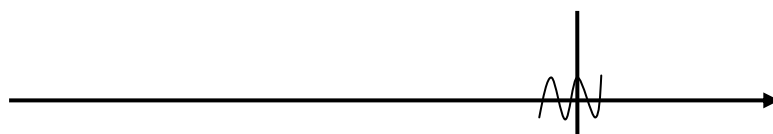
Concept Check Questions:
Is this happening now? (yes)
Has the action finished? (no)

Verb keeps "ing" form in the negative or question forms

Rising intonation- Y/N Question
Falling intonation - open ended question

Pronunciation:
Question intonation
'ing' pronunciation:
Contractions

Comparison with Tetun

There is a structural difference between present continuous in English and Tetun. In English when we talk about a situation that is happening now we need to use the auxiliary verb **"be"** and add **"-ing"** to the verb e.g. *'I am eating.'* In contrast, in Tetun the continuous marker *hela* or *dadaduk* follows the verb, and there is no change in the form of the verb, e.g. *'Hau haan hela*.'

Tetun has two different expressions of continuous aspect, which allow a distinction in meaning that English does not make. *Hela* or *sei ... hela* show that something is or was happening at the time we are talking about. We are only interested in it happening at that time, we are not interested in when it started or when it will finish. e.g. *Hau haan hela* 'I am eating.' The term *dadauk* or *dadaun* similarly shows that something is or was happening, but also shows that this action is reaching its end-point. e.g. *Nia foo etu bikan ida mai hau haan. Hau haan dadauk ...* 'I was/am eating (a plate of rice) – this shows I am/was eating, <u>and</u> that the eating has/had an end-point, in this case when the plate of rice is eaten up. English does not make this distinction in aspect.

Present Simple (routines) vs Present Continuous (happening now)

Present Simple

Function: Use <u>Present Simple</u> to talk about habits and routines.

Form:

(+)	She	+	likes	+	pop songs				
(+)	I	+	teach	+	top students every morning.				
form	*subject*	+	*inf*	+	*object*				

(-)	He	+	doesn't	+	always	+	use	+	whiteboard.
(-)	They	+	don't	+	often	+	listen	+	to song in class.
form	*subject*	+	*do*	+	*adv of time*	+	*infinitive*	+	*object*

(?)	Does	+	she	+	always	+	go	+	for a walk?
(?)	Do	+	you	+	often	+	have	+	dinner at home?
form	*do*	+	*subject*	+	*adv of time*	+	*infinitive*	+	*object*
(?)	Where	+	does	+	she	+	usually	+	have + lunch?
form	*Q word*	+	*does*	+	*subject*	+	*adv of time*	+	*infinitive* + *object*

Present Continuous

Function: Use <u>Present Continuous</u> to talk about something happening at the moment.

Form:

(+)	She	+	's	+	listening	+	to a rock song now.	
(+)	I	+	'm	+	teaching	+	low students at the moment.	
form	*subject*	+	*be*	+	*verb + ing*	+	*object*	

(-)	She	+	isn't	+	having	+	lunch at a café.	
(-)	They	+	aren't	+	using	+	Speakout book.	
form	*subject*	+	*be + not*	+	*verb + ing*	+	*object*	

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Concept Check Questions:
Can you use Present Continuous to talk about routines? (no)
Is the action in Present Continuous
finished now? (not yet)
Is the action in Present Simple finished? (no)

Can you use Present Simple in the future? (yes)
Does present continuous happen everyday? (no)

Verbs need to be changed to s, es, ies for 3rd person singin Present Simple.

In Present Continuous, some verbs that end with consonantvowel consonant needs to be doubled the last consonant + ing.

(?)	Are	+	they	+	cooking	+	now?		
form	*to be*	+	*subject*	+	*verb + ing*	+	*object*		
(?)	What	+	's	+	she	+	writing	+	at the moment?
form	*Q word*	+	*to be*	+	*subject*	+	*verb + ing*	+	*object*

Timeline:

I am listening to a rock song

NOW

I like pop   *I like pop*   *I like pop*   *I like pop*

In Present Simple, for negative and question, the verbs should be in infinitive.

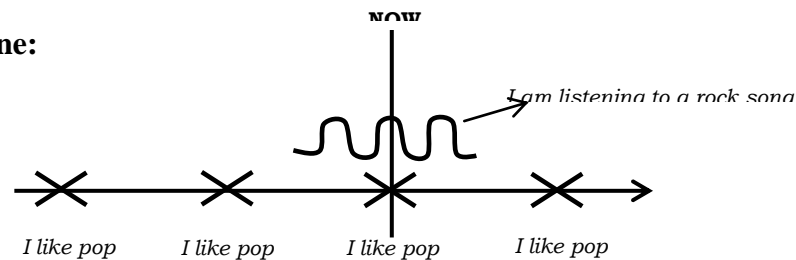*In Present Continuous, for positive, negative and question, add –ing to the verbs*

Contractions:

don't, doesn't, aren't, isn't, she's, he's, they're. we're, you're, I'm.

Pronunciation:

- Contractions: doesn't, aren't, you're, I'm, he's, she's
- s, es, ies pronunciation

Comparison with Tetun

Unlike English, Tetun does not use verb forms to distinguish between routine actions and current actions, instead using context, aspect (e.g. *dadauk, hela*) or time expressions (e.g. *agora, sempre, baibain*). E.g.

- Routine: *Hau halo hau nia servisu uma **kal-kalan**. '*I do my homework **every night**.'
- Current action: ***Agora dadauk** hau halo **hela** hau nia servisu uma.* 'I am doing my homework **now**.'

In the Present Simple, as in all English verb conjugation, students might be confused about having two different forms for different subjects, as Tetun Dili uses the same verb form for all subjects. They could also be confused by the various spellings and pronunciations of the third person singular ending: *-s, -es,* and *-ies.* For Present Continuous, students will need to remember to add *-ing* to the main verb.

Present Continuous (Future Plans)

Function: To talk about definite arrangements/plans which are going to happen in the future.

Form:

(+)	He	+	's	+	meeting	+	Gallia at 6 o'clock .
(+)	They	+	're	+	meeting	+	him at 6 o'clock today.
form	subject	+	be	+	verb+ing	+	object

(-)	I	+	'm not	+	meeting	+	Gallia at 6 o'clock later today
(-)	they	+	aren't	+	meeting	+	her at 6 o'clock later today
form	subject	+	be + not	+	verb+ing	+	object

(?)	Are	+	they	+	meeting	+	Gallia at 6 o'clock?
form	be	+	subject	+	verb+ing	+	object
(?)	Where	+	are	+	they	+	meeting + Gallia?
form	Q-word	+	be	+	subject	+	+

Timeline:

Now

Meeting Gallia at 6:00

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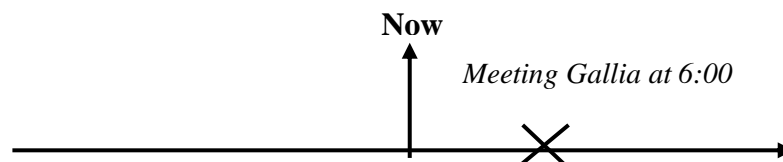
Concept Check Questions:
Are we talking about the present or the future? (future)
Is it a plan? (yes)
Is it happening now? (no)

*Verbs keep **ing** in regular and irregular form in positive/ negative or question forms*
Rising intonation- Y/N Question

Falling intonation - open ended question

Pronunciation:
Question intonation
'ing' pronunciation: /ɪŋ/
Contractions: isn't,aren't

</div>

Potential student problems

Tetun does not use continuous aspect for future plans. Instead it uses the auxiliary *sei* for any type of future prediction or plan. In contrast, English has three ways to talk about the future: present continuous tense, 'going to' and 'will'. This could make it difficult for students to distinguish the three. They might also forget to conjugate the verb in present continuous.

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Present Perfect

Function: Used to talk about past experiences (no reference to specific time).

Form:

(+)	I / You	+	've	+	been to	+	Mt Ramelau.
(+)	She / he	+	's	+	climbed	+	Mt Matebian.
form	*subject*	+	*have*	+	*past participle*	+	*object*

(-)	We/ they	+	haven't	+	been to	+	Mount Ramelau.
(-)	He / she	+	has *never*	+	climbed	+	Mount Everest.
form	*subject*	+	*have not*	+	*past participle*	+	*object*

(?)	Have	+	you	+	been to	+	Mount Ramelau?
(?)	Has	+	she	+	*(ever)* climbed	+	Mount Everest?
form	*Have*	+	*subject*	+	*past participle*	+	*object/ complement*

Timeline:

She's been to Egypt.

now

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
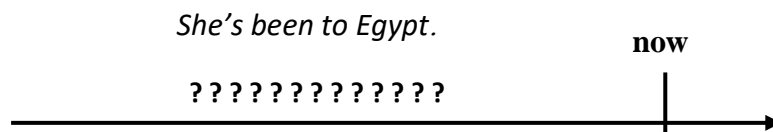
Concept Check Questions:
Is the action in the past or present? (past)
Is the action finished? (yes)
Do we use specific time in the sentence? (no)

Contractions:
Haven't and hasn't.

To make questions: The auxiliary verb goes first in the **Ever – m**eans **'at any time'**

Pronunciation:
Contractions: haven't/hasn't
Past participle 'ed': t/d/Id/

Comparison with Tetun

Tetun does not have the concept of present perfect tense. It does however correspond quite closely to Indonesian *pernah*. In Tetun, *ona* and *tiha ona* can be used to show that something happened in the past, without giving any specific time; however unlike present perfect, both *ona* and *tiha ona* indicate that the event is still relevant in the present.

Students might be confused about the auxiliary verb 'have', thinking it to be a main verb, not a helping verb.

The English present perfect is used without any specific time mentioned in the past. However students may erroneously use it when talking about specific times, e.g. * '~~I have been to Ramelau last week~~.'

Present Perfect   (Unfinished Action)

Function: We use this tense when we want to talk about unfinished actions or states that started in the past and continue to the present. Usually we use it to say 'how long' and we need 'since' or 'for'.

Form:

(+)	Maria	+	's	+	taught	+	English for 4 years.
(+)	We	+	've	+	lived	+	in Australia since 2014.
Form	*Subject*	*+*	*have*	*+*	*past participle*	*+*	*Object*

(-)	I	+	haven't	+	worked	+	here for 4 years.
Form	*subject*	*+*	*haven't*	*+*	*past participle*	*+*	*Object*

(?)	Have/has	+	they/she	+	worked	+	here since 2014?
Form	*(have/has)*	*+*	*Subject*	*+*	*past participle*	*+*	*object*

(?)	How long	+	has	+	he	+	lived	+	in Dili?
Form	*Q word*	*+*	*have*	*+*	*subject*	*+*	*past participle*	*+*	*object*

Timeline:

Now

I've worked here for 4 years.

I've worked here since 2014.
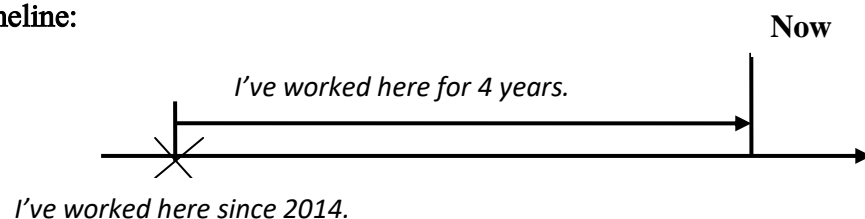
Concept Check Questions:
Do we know when the action started? (no)
Has the action finished? (no)
Does the action continue up to and include the present? (yes)
Do I still work there? (yes)

Verb keeps past participle form in the negative or question forms.

Rising intonation- Y/N Question

Falling intonation - open ended question

Pronunciation:
Question intonation
'ed' pronunciation: /t/, /d/, /Id/
Contractions: haven't/hasn't/'ve/'s

Comparison with Tetun

Tetun does have tense, so the distinction between present perfect and past perfect is shown by context or by time words. Tetun has several options for showing perfect aspect.

- *tiha ona* is normally translateable by perfect aspect in English. E.g. *Hau haan tiha ona.* 'I have eaten.' It means this event happened in the past, and is still relevant. In this example, the eating occurred in the past, and is still relevant, probably because I am still full and don't need to eat again.

- *ona* occurs with punctual verbs – that is, verbs that describe something that happens so quickly that it can be considered instantaneous – to show perfect aspect. E.g. *Nia tama ona polisia.* 'He has joined the police.' For durative verbs, it can indicate either that the activity has finished, or that it has begun. E.g. *Nia hariis ona.* 'He has bathed' / 'He is bathing (has started bathing).'

- *tiha* focuses on completion. It is used mainly in clauses that talk about events that have a clearly-defined completion-point; for instance drinking a glass of water (versus drinking an unspecified amount of something), or waiting one month (versus just waiting). It is often used in the first of two clauses to mean something like 'after': E.g. *Ami halai ba Ermera. Too tiha nebaa, milísia sira haruka ami tuun hosi kareta.*

Present Perfect: 'for' and 'since'

Function: To talk about the duration of an action that started in the past and continues up to and includes the present.

Form:

form					
(+)	I	+ have	+ taught	+	in this school since 2000
(+)	He	+ has	+ lived	+	in that house for 7 years
form	*subject*	*+ Have/has*	*+ past participle*	*+*	*object*

(-)	I	+ haven't	+ taught	+	in this school since 2000
(-)	He	+ hasn't	+ lived	+	in that house for 7 years
form	*subject*	*+ have/has*	*+ past participle*	*+*	*object*

(?)	Have	+ you	+ taught	+	in this school since 2000?	
(?)	Has	+ he	+ lived	+	in that house for 7 years?	
form	*Have/has*	*+ subject*	*+ past participle*	*+*	*object*	
(?)	Where	+ have	+ you	+	taught	+ since 2000?
(?)	Where	+ has	+ he	+	lived	+ for 7 years?
form	*Q word*	*+ have/has*	*+ subject*	*+*	*past participle*	*+ object*

Timeline:

*I lived in that house **for 7 years***

now

*She taught in this school **since 2000***
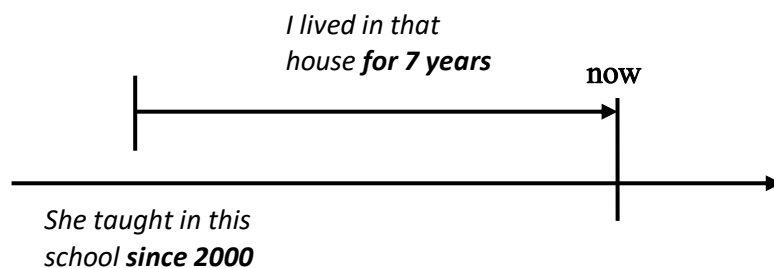
Concept Check Questions:

Since:
Do we know when the action started? (yes)
Does the action continue up to and include the present? (yes)
Does he still live in that house? (yes)

For:
Do we know when the action started? (no)
Do we know how the duration – how long – of the action? (yes)

Rising intonation- Y/N Question

Falling intonation - open ended question

Pronunciation:
Question intonation
'ed' pronunciation: /t/, /d/, /Id/ (for regular verbs)
Contractions: haven't/hasn't

Comparison with Tetun

The preposition 'since' corresponds closely to Tetun *dezde*, and 'for' corresponds closely to *durante*.

However in Tetun, we do not need to mark the time for events; people interpret it depending on context. E.g. *Hau servisu iha DIT dezde 2015* is ambiguous between present perfect 'I have worked at DIT since 2015 (i.e. until now)' and past perfect 'I had worked at DIT since 2015' (i.e. until the time we are talking about). To emphasise that this is quite a long time, we can add ona or tiha ona. E.g. Hau servisu iha DIT dezde 2015 ona, nunee hau kompriende di-diak nia sistema administrasaun!

Simililarly, Hau hela iha uma nee durante tinan hitu is ambiguous between present perfect 'I have lived in this house for seven years (and still live here)' and past perfect 'I lived in this house for seven years (but no longer do).' Again, ona or tiha ona can be added to show that this is a long time. E.g. Hau hela iha uma nee durante tinan hitu ona, laos foin mak muda mai!

Present Perfect Continuous

Function: Is used to talk about the duration of an activity that started in the past and it is continuing until present.

Form:

(+)	She	+ 's	+ been	+ studying	+ in Bali for long time.
(+)	It	+ 's	+ been	+ raining	+ for an hour.
(+)	They	+ 've	+ been	+ living	+ in Dili since 2000.
form	*sub*	*+ have*	*+ been*	*+ v-Ing*	*+ object*

(-)	He	+ hasn't	+ been	+ studying	+ since last year.
(-)	It	+ hasn't	+ been	+ raining	+ for an hour.
form	*sub*	*+ have not*	*+ been*	*+ V+ing*	*+ object*

(?)	Have	+ they	+ been	+ working	+ there for one year/since 2012?
(?)	Has	+ it	+ been	+ raining	+ for an hour/since this morning?
form	*Have*	*+ subject*	*+ been*	*+ V+ing*	*+ object*

(?)	Where	+ have	+ you	+ been	+ working?
form	*Q-word*	*+ have*	*+ sub*	*+ been*	*+ v-ing*

Timeline:

She has been studying English since 2017

Now

2017
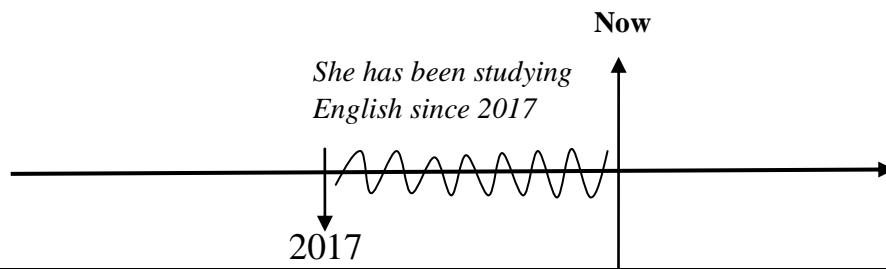
Concept Check Questions:

Did the action start in the past? (yes)
Is the action continuing? (yes)
Is the action finished? (no)

*Verb needs to added- **Ing***

***For** (used for length of time)
e.g. (a month, two hours)*
***Since** (used for specific time something started) e.g. (2016. 12 o'clock)*

Pronunciation:
Question intonation
Contractions

Comparison with Tetun

Tetun does not have perfect continuous. Instead it is possible to use a tim expression with *ona* to show that an activity has been happening for that period of time, or a state has been true for that period. e.g.

- *Maria estuda iha Bali kleur ona.* 'Maria has been studying in Bali for a long time.'
- *Nia moras tinan ida ona.* 'He has been sick for a year.'
- *Sira moris iha Dili durante tinan rua-nulu ona.* 'They have been living in Dili for twenty years.'

Past Perfect

Function: We use the past perfect to show that one event happened before another event, in the past.
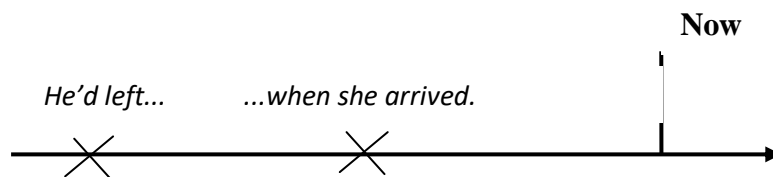
Form:

(+)	He	+ 'd	+ left	+ when she	+ arrived.
Form	*Subject*	*+ had*	*+ PP*	*+ when + subject*	*+ Past simple*

(-)	I	+ hadn't	+ left	+ when she	+ arrived.
Form	*subject*	*+ hadn't*	*+*	*+ when + subject*	*+ Past simple*

(?)	Had	+ he	+ left	+ before she	+ arrived?
Form	*Had*	*+ Sub*	*+ PP*	*+ when + subject*	*+ Past simple*

Note: *when* can be changed with *before* or *after*.

Timeline:

Now

He'd left...   *...when she arrived.*

Concept Check Questions:
Are we talking about the past? (yes)
How many actions are there? (two)
Which auctioned happened first?
(he had left)

Verb keeps past participle form in the negative or question forms.

Rising intonation- Y/N Question

Falling intonation - open ended question

Pronunciation:
Question intonation
'ed' pronunciation: /t/, /d/, /Id/
Contractions: hadn't
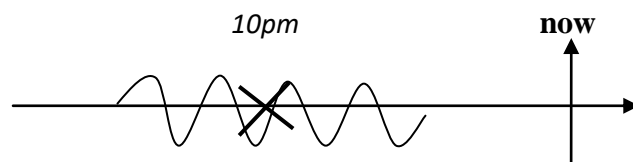
Comparison with Tetun

-

Past Continuous

Function: To talk about an action or event which was happening (in progress) in the past.

Form:

(+)	They	+	were	+	watch*ing*	+	TV at 10:00 pm
form	*subject*	+	*were*	+	*verb+ing*	+	*object*

(+)	She	+	was	+	sing*ing*	+	a song at 10pm.
form	*subject*	+	*were*	+	*verb+ing*	+	*object*
		+		+		+	

(-)	They	+	weren't	+	watch*ing*	+	TV at 10:00 pm
form	*subject*	+	*were not*	+	*verb+ing*	+	*object*
(-)	She	+	wasn't	+	sing*ing*	+	a song at 10pm.
form	*subject*	+	*was not*	+	*verb+ing*	+	*object*

(?)	Were	+	they	+	watching	+	T.V at 10.00pm.
form	*Was/were*		*subject*		*verb+ing*		*object*

Timeline:

Comparison with Tetun

Tetun continuous constructions show three major differences to English. Firstly, English uses the auxiliary plus 'ing' on the main verb, while Tetun uses *hela* or *dadauk* after the verb, or *sei* before the verb and *hela* after it.

Secondly, Tetun doesn't use verb forms to distinguish between past or present continuous; it is context or adverbs or time that show what time we are talking about. For instance, *Hau haree hela televizaun* can be translated as 'I am watching television' or 'I was watching television' depending on context. e.g.

- *Nonook ona! Hau haree hela televizaun.* 'Be quiet! I'm watching TV.'

- *Horikalan sira too iha uma, hau haree hela televizaun.* 'Last night when they arrived at the house, I was watching TV.'

Thirdly, Tetun has two different expressions of continuous aspect. *Hela* or *sei ... hela* shows that something is or was happening at the time we are talking about. We are only interested in it happening at that time, we are not interested in when it started or when it will finish. e.g. *Sira lao hela* 'They are/were walking.' The term *dadauk* or *dadaun* similarly shows that something is or was happening, but also shows that this action is reaching its end-point. e.g. *Sira lao dadauk ba merkadu'* – this shows they are/were walking, <u>and</u> that the walking has/had an end-point, in this case when they reach the market. English does not make this distinction in aspect.

Past Continuous vs Past Simple

Function: To talk about an action that was in progress in the past time and was interrupted by another complete activity.

Form:

(+)	I	+ was	+ watching	+ TV	+ when	+ you	+ called.
form	*Sub*	*+ was*	*+ verb +ing*	*+ Object*	*+ when*	*sub*	*+ Verb+ed*
(+)	When	+ he	+ came	+ home,	+ we	+ were	+ cooking.
form	*When*	*+ sub*	*+ verb+ed*	*+ object*	*+ sub*	*+ were*	*+ verb+ing*

(-)	I	+ wasn't	+ watching	+ TV	+ when	+ you	+ called.
sorm	*subject*	*+ wasn't*	*+ verb+(-ing)*	*+ object*	*+ when*	*+ sub*	*+ verb+ed*
(-)	When	+ he	+ came	+ home,	+ they	+ weren't	+ cooking
form	*When*	*+ sub*	*+ verb+ed*	*+ object*	*+ subj*	*+ Weren't*	*+ Object*

(?)	Were	+ you	+ watching	+ TV	+ when	+ I	+ called?
Form	*Be*	*+ subject*	*+ verb +ing*	*+ Object*	*+ When*	*+ subject*	*+ verb+ed*
(?)	What	+ were	+ you	+ doing	+ when	+ I	+ called?
Form	*Qword*	*+ be*	*+ subject*	*+ v+ing*	*+ When*	*+ subject*	*+ verb+ed*

Timeline:

you called

now
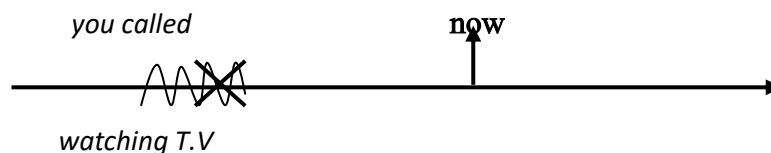
watching T.V

Concept Check Questions:
Was I watching when you called? (yes)
Was the action in progress when you called? (yes)

Use 'when' and 'while' to connect two different tenses
The ing form doesn't change in negative and interrogative sentence.

Rise intonation- Y/N Question
Falling intonation - open ended question

Comparison with Tetun

Students may confuse the conjugation of verbs in English or forget to conjugate them, as Tetun Dili does not have verb conjugation. Time is indicated by time words. *Hela, sei... hela* or *dadauk* show that an action is or was in progress. E.g. I was watching TV when you called. *Bainhira o telefone, hau nonton hela televizaun*.

Used to

Function: To talk about an action that happened regularly in the past but no longer happens in the present, or something that was true in the past but is no longer true in the present.

Form:

(+)	He	+	used to	+	play	+	football.
form	*subject*	*+*	*used to*	*+*	*Infinitive*	*+*	*object*
(+)	We	+	used to	+	be	+	students.
form	*subject*	*+*	*used to*	*+*	*be +*	*+*	*object*

(-)	She	+	didn't	+	use to	+	study	+	English.
form	*subject*	*+*	*didn't*	*+*	*use to*	*+*	*Infinitive*	*+*	*object*

(?)	Did	+	you	+	use to	+	teach	+	economics ?		
form	*Did*	*+*	*subject*	*+*	*use to*	*+*	*Infinitive*	*+*	*object*		
(?)	Where	+	did	+	they	+	use to	+	drink	+	coffee?
form	*Q word*	*+*	*did*	*+*	*subject*	*+*	*use to*	*+*	*Inf*	*+*	*object?*

Timeline:

Present (now)

Past ——✗——✗——✗——✗————————————→ Future

I used to play football

I don't play football anymore now
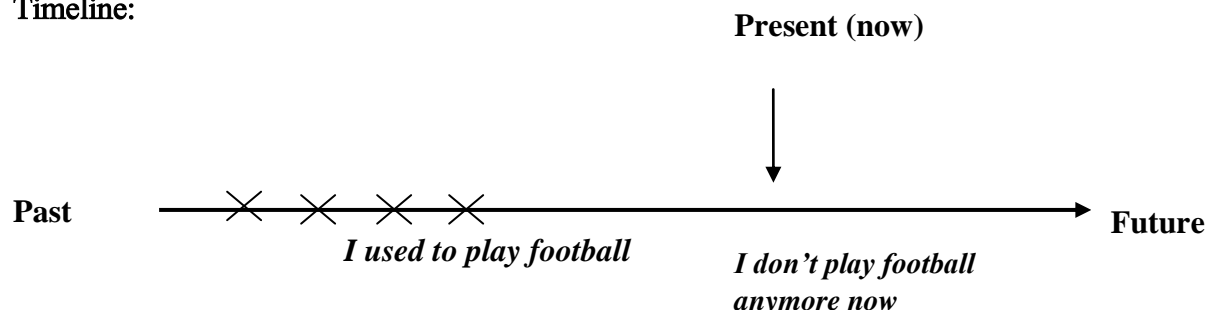
Concept Check Questions:
Is the action in the present or in the past? (past)
Does the action still happen now? (No)
Did it happen once in the past? (No, regularly)
Does he still play football now? (No)
Did he play football regularly in the past? (Yes)

In negative (didn't) and interrogative (Did)," used to" should be changed to "use to "

Rising intonation- Y/N Question

Falling intonation - open ended question

Pronunciation:
"Used to" , -ed/t /

Comparison with Tetun

In Tetun 'used to' is expressed using a contrast between *uluk* 'in the past' and *agora* 'now'. E.g.

- 'I used to play football' **Uluk** *hau joga bola* (**agora** *lae ona*). / **Uluk** *ha'u* **sempre** *joga bola* (*agora lae ona*).