

# English Ladder

## Teaching Guide

## Understanding Events & Tenses in English

A concise classroom guide with lesson flow, teaching cues, and a ready-to-use answer key built around the same English Ladder concept sheet.



Grammar Concepts #14

Key Points

### Visual anchor

Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in **Understanding Events & Tenses in English** and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

**ENGLISH LADDER**

Concept #14 ► Events & Tenses

Here are a few examples of ways to talk about two events from different temporal (time) perspectives.

**2018** Martin marries

- Martin graduated 5 years prior to marrying.
- Martin married 5 years after he graduated.
- Martin married 3 years ago and graduated 8 years ago.

**2015**

- Martin will marry 5 years after his graduation.
- Martin graduated 5 years before he plans to marry.

**2013** Martin graduates

- Martin graduated 3 years ago. He'll marry 2 years from now.
- It has been 3 years since Martin's graduation.
- Two years from now, Martin will marry.

**2010**

- Martin will graduate 5 years before he marries.

**2008**

- Martin will marry 5 years after he graduates.
- Martin will graduate in 2 years and marry 7 years from now.

Remember that if the reference point is now, we use **ago** and **from now/in**. For other times we use **before/prior to** and **after**.

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## At a Glance

<p><b>Lesson focus</b> Understanding Events &amp; Tenses in English</p>	<p><b>Suggested timing</b> 45-60 minutes</p>
<p><b>Core objective</b> Students explain the target pattern clearly and apply it accurately in controlled practice and discussion.</p>	<p><b>Materials</b> Student PDF, the concept image, board space, and time for partner checking.</p>

## Suggested Lesson Flow

<b>Warm-up</b>	Display the concept image and ask learners to predict the rule behind <b>Understanding Events &amp; Tenses in English</b> before reading the explanation.
<b>Model</b>	Walk through the Core Idea and the sections on Key Points. Pause after each part so students can restate the pattern in plain English.
<b>Guided practice</b>	Project two or three examples from the concept sheet and ask pairs to explain why each choice works, not just what the answer is.
<b>Independent work</b>	Assign the 24 practice items for quiet work, partner checking, and final feedback.
<b>Closure</b>	Ask students to create one new sentence or mini-example of their own that follows the same pattern.



## Likely Learner Errors

- Learners may overgeneralize the first pattern they notice. Keep returning to **Key Points** and ask students to explain what changes from one example to the next.
- Long explanations can hide the signal word or structure. Have students underline the exact phrase that tells them which form, pattern, or response is needed.
- If students can choose an answer but cannot explain it, ask them to justify their choice using words taken directly from the concept sheet.

## Differentiation and Delivery Notes

- Support: teach one section at a time, then send students back to **the examples** or the practice set so they can apply the same rule immediately.
- Pair work: let students compare answers aloud before you reveal the key. The explanation step is as important as the final answer.
- Extension: ask stronger students to write two fresh examples or a short dialogue that uses the same target language accurately.

## Model Language from the Concept Sheet

- Maria learned Spanish 3 years prior to moving to Spain.
- Alex started his business 2 years after finishing college.
- Julia visited Paris 2 years ago and graduated from university 5 years ago.
- Sarah will travel to Japan 1 year after she gets her passport.
- David bought a house 2 years before he plans to retire.
- Emily started her job 4 years ago. She plans to start her own business 3 years from now.



## Answer Key

Use this key for whole-class feedback or fast marking.

**ITEM 01**

Maria learned Spanish 3 years prior to moving to Spain.

**ITEM 02**

Alex started his business 2 years after finishing college.

**ITEM 03**

Julia visited Paris 2 years ago and graduated from university 5 years ago.

**ITEM 04**

Sarah will travel to Japan 1 year after she gets her passport.

**ITEM 05**

David bought a house 2 years before he plans to retire.

**ITEM 06**

Emily started her job 4 years ago. She plans to start her own business 3 years from now.

**ITEM 07**

It has been 6 months since Anna moved to New York.

**ITEM 08**

Two weeks from now, I will start my new job.

**ITEM 09**

Lucy will finish her book 2 years before it gets published.

**ITEM 10**

John will travel to Europe 1 year after he completes his degree.

**ITEM 11**

Lisa will finish her training in 6 months and start her own practice 1 year from now.

**ITEM 12**

Martin will marry 5 years after his graduation.

**ITEM 13**

Martin graduated 5 years before he plans to marry.

**ITEM 14**

Martin graduated 3 years ago. He'll marry 2 years from now.

**ITEM 15**

It has been 3 years since Martin's graduation.

**ITEM 16**

Two years from now, Martin will marry.

**ITEM 17**

Martin will graduate 5 years before he marries.

**ITEM 18**

Martin will marry 5 years after he graduates.

**ITEM 19**

Martin will graduate in 2 years and marry 7 years from now.

**ITEM 20**

John graduated 3 years ago, and he will start his master's degree 2 years from now.

**ITEM 21**

Alice will complete her project 6 months from now and present it 3 months after she finishes.

**ITEM 22**

It has been 2 years since he last visited his hometown.

**ITEM 23**

Tom will graduate in 1 year and start his job 2 years from now.

**ITEM 24**

It has been 4 years since I moved to this city.



## Feedback Cues

- Item 01: Explanation: "Prior to" means before a certain time or event. "Ago" is incorrect because it is used with a specific point in time in the past, not before another event. "Since" is incorrect because it is used to indicate the time from a past event to the present.
- Item 02: Explanation: "After" is used to indicate that one event happened following another. "Ago" is incorrect because it is used to specify how long before the present something happened. "Before" is incorrect because it would suggest the business was started before finishing college, which changes the meaning.
- Item 03: Explanation: "Ago" is used to indicate a time period that has passed from the present moment. "Before" and "after" are incorrect because they compare two events relative to each other, not relative to the present moment.
- Item 04: Explanation: "After" is correct to show that Sarah's travel happens following the event of getting her passport. "Ago" is incorrect because it refers to past time. "Before" is incorrect because it would mean she travels before getting her passport.
- Item 05: Explanation: "Before" indicates that the house purchase happened prior to his retirement. "After" is incorrect because it would mean he bought the house following his retirement. "Since" is incorrect because it refers to time passed since a past event.
- Item 06: Explanation: "Ago" indicates past time, while "from now" indicates future time from the present moment. "Before" and "after" do not fit because they do not indicate past or future relative to now.