

Tense, Aspect & Mood

Languages

Three separate things English bundles together, and how to tell them apart.

One verb form can carry all three at once.

Category	Answers	Examples
Tense	When	past, present, future
Aspect	How it unfolds	simple, continuous, perfect
Mood	Attitude to reality	indicative, subjunctive, imperative

'I was eating' is past tense, continuous aspect, indicative mood. Many languages mark aspect far more than tense.