

- hogy segítsen. Hány óra alatt végezte volna el a munkát a harmadik mázoló?
29. Matyi 4 nap alatt olvasott el egy könyvet. Az első nap a könyv egyharmadát, a második nap az egyhatodát, a harmadik nap a negyedét olvasta el, és az utolsó napra maradt még 30 oldala. Hány oldalas a könyv? (Oldd meg következtetéssel is!)

30. A Zrínyi Ilona Matematikaversenyen a nyolcadikosoknak 30 feladatot kell megoldaniuk. Minden feladatért kapnak egy-egy pontot, a jó válaszáért még válaszonként 4-4 pontot. A rossz válaszáért 1 pontot levonnak, a megválaszolatlanul maradt feladatokért nem vonnak le és nem is adnak pontot. Dénesnek 4 rossz válasza volt, és összesen 114 pontot szerzett. a) Hány jó válasza volt? b) Hány kérdésre nem válaszolt?

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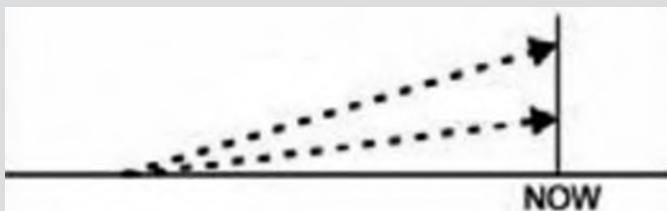
## Using Diagrams for Teaching (and Remembering) the Usage of Tenses [Part 2]

### OVERVIEW

This article is the continuation of an article published in the previous issue of the journal, dealing with a technique of teaching and remembering the usage of English verb tenses. The main idea of the technique is that the students should memorize the diagrams only, instead of cramming all the rules and situations in which a tense is used. When they need them, they can deduce the rules and situations from the diagrams without using any external source. In order for this to work and be effective it is essential to create diagrams where every line and curve has a meaning.

### DIAGRAMS, TENSE USAGE AND EXPLANATIONS

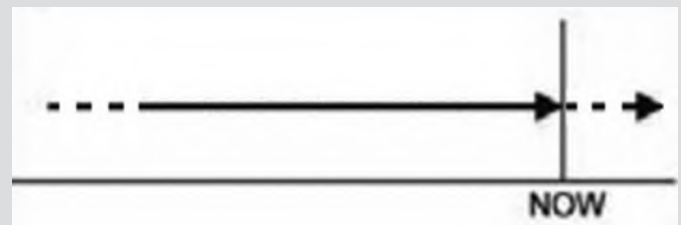
#### PRESENT PERFECT



Understanding Present Perfect is not easy, especially for students with Hungarian as their mother tongue. The reason for that is relatively simple: in English (as the name of the tense shows it clearly) Present Perfect is a present tense, but in Hungarian, we use the past tense to express it [I have already seen this movie → Már láttam ezt a filmet]. We use the Present Perfect not to express the past activity, but to emphasize the activity's effect on the present moment. The two blue dashed lines on the diagram represent the effect of the activity. The beginnings of the arrows show us that the activity happened in the past (left side of the horizontal timeline, divided by the present moment: "NOW"), and are pointing to the present moment (have an effect on it). When we say "I have opened the door", it is not the physical movement of opening the door which is important, but the fact that the door is now open (the guests can step inside the house). There are certain key words that, if present in the sentence, in most cases indicate the use of Present Perfect: already, just, yet, still, lately, recently etc. It is important to note that the beginnings of the arrows on the diagrams can be replaced, so that e. g.

they almost reach the present moment. In this case the activity has ended only a few minutes or even seconds before the time of speaking ("I'm not hungry at the moment. I have just eaten."). Present Perfect is used not only when the past activity has an effect on the present moment, but also when there is a lack of a past activity ("I have not read this book yet"). In these cases, the lack of the activity (reading the book) itself is the effect on the present moment. In other words, the effect on the present moment can be created by the lack of an activity as well. Of course, instead of the word 'activity' we might as well use the word 'experience' ("I have already tried bungee jumping"), or 'state' ("I have already been married once").

#### PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS



Present Perfect Continuous is used when we want to express that the activity started in the past and it is continuing up until the present moment or even continues into the future. The beginning of the blue arrow on the left side of the diagram represents the past time when the activity started. The fact that it is dashed indicates that the time can be known ("since 7 o'clock this morning"), or unknown ("for years"). The two ends (heads) of the arrow show that the activity might have ended just before the present moment ("Her clothes are dirty. She has been playing in the mud again."), or might continue into the future ("He has been playing basketball for 5 years."). It is important to note that the negative form of Present Perfect Continuous is rarely used ("I haven't been playing chess for 10 years."), we use the simple perfect form instead ("I haven't played chess for 10 years."). In case of complex verbs (to be in love; to be married etc.) we also do not use the continuous aspect of Present Perfect, we use the simple form instead ("I have been married since 2008" and not "I have been being married since 2008"). The same is true for professions: "He has been a doctor for 6 years" and not "He has been being a doctor for 6 years").

#### NOTE

An engaging activity can very easily be created by asking the students to compare the new diagram(s) with those which they are already familiar with, even before explaining them the new tense (e. g. Compare the diagrams of Present Continuous and Present Perfect Continuous). After they get fluent with the interpretation of the diagrams, they will be able to deduce the rules for previously unknown tenses without prior explanation. Further tenses with their diagrams and descriptions are coming in the next issue (Part 3).