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Grammar Reference

Use of the preterite

The **preterite** is used when:

- talking about a **specific action in the past**. With **expressions** describing moments in the **past** such as yesterday, last month, ago..., the **preterite** is necessary.

Example: They **married** two years **ago**.
He **died in 1964**.

- talking about **actions** or **completely finished events** that have no link to the present.

Example: We **spent three years** in Switzerland.

- talking about **past habits**.

Example: My grandfather **worked** on a farm.

The near future: BE + ING

- The **present continuous (BE + ING)** may express a **planned or expected event in the near future**.

Example: We're **having** friends over for dinner.
Where **are you going**?
We're **staying** in a summer house
we rented.

Note. In such a case, the date is often explicit.

Example: They're **coming** tonight.

- This form can also imply a strongly felt intention or desire. **Not** may be stressed in **negative** sentences of this type.

Example: I'm **not seeing** anybody today.

Possessive pronouns

A - Form

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
1st person	mine	ours
2nd person	yours	yours
3rd person		
<i>masculine</i>	his	theirs
<i>feminine</i>	hers	theirs
<i>neuter</i>		theirs

B - Use

- The **possessive pronoun** replaces a **noun phrase**.

It is **never** preceded by a determiner.

It **doesn't vary** in function with the nominal group that it replaces.

Example: This skirt is **mine** (*my skirt*).
These skirts are **mine** (*my skirts*).