English Tenses Timeline Chart

This timeline tenses chart provides a handy reference sheet to English tenses and their relationship to one another and the past, present and future. Conjugated verbs are highlighted in **bold**. Tenses which are rarely used in everyday conversation are marked by an asterik (*).

		TIMELINE		
SIMPLE ACTIVE	SIMPLE PASSIVE		PROGRESSIVE / CONTINUOUS ACTIVE	PROGRESSIVE / CONTINUOUS PASSIVE
		PAST TIME		
She had already eaten when I arrived.	The painting had been sold twice before it was destroyed.	^ PAST PERFECT 	I had been waiting for four hours when he finally arrived.	The house had been being painted for over a month before they began to decorate the interior. *
I bought a new car last week.	The book was written in 1876 by Frank Smith.	^ PAST 	I was watching TV when she arrived.	The problem was being solved when I arrived late for class.
She has lived in California for many years.	The company has been managed by Fred Jones for the last two years.	^ PRESENT PERFECT 	She has been working at Johnson's for six months.	The students have been being taught for the last four hours. *
He works five days a week.	Those shoes are made in Italy.	^ PRESENT 	I am working at the moment.	The work is being done by Jim.

