Present and Past Tenses Jigsaw

Tense	Active	Passive	Timeline		
Simple Present	A: He washes the car. N: He doesn't wash the car. Q: Does he wash the car?	A: It's washed. N: It's not washed. Q: Is it washed?	Past Present Future		
Present Continuous	A: He's washing it. N: He isn't washing it. Q: Is he washing it?	A: It's being washed. N: It's not being washed. Q: Is it being washed?	Past Present Future		

Simple Past	A: He washed it. N: He didn't wash it. Q: Did he wash it?	A: It was washed. N: It wasn't washed. Q: Was it washed?	Past Present Future
Past Continuous	A: He was washing the car. N: He wasn't washing the car. Q: Was he washing the car?	A: It was being washed. N: It wasn't being washed. Q: Was it being washed?	Past Present Future

Present Perfect Simple	A: He's washed it. N: He hasn't washed it. Q: Has he washed it?	A: It's been washed. N: It hasn't been washed. Q: Has it been washed?	action result Past Present Future
Present Perfect Continuous	A: He's been washing the car. N: He's not been washing the car. Q: Has he been washing the car?	Not common in English	action result Past Present Future

Past Perfect Simple	A: He'd washed it. N: He hadn't washed it. Q: Had he washed it? (Normally part of a bigger sentence)	A: It'd been washed. N: It hadn't been washed Q: Had it been washed?	action result Earlier Past Present Future past
Past Perfect Continuous	A: It'd been raining. N: It hadn't been raining. Q: Had it been raining? (Normally part of a bigger sentence)	Not common in English	action result Earlier Past Present Future past

Teaching Ideas

This handout has been designed for cutting up into a table-top jigsaw. It can also be stuck together to make a simple poster or parts can be used for teaching individual tenses. There is also **Timeline Key** a 1 page version available at www.jamesabela.co.uk

This exercise can be used as a general revision tool for the tenses or as a controlled practice in a lesson.

Variations

- If students are not familiar with timelines or do not find them useful then please feel free to remove them from the puzzle.
- Easier puzzle You can also change the puzzle. Perhaps you just want students to match passive and active. In which case you might only want to cut out the active and passive. As shown below.

Tense	Active		
	A: He washes the car. N: He doesn't wash the car.		
	O: Does he wash the car?		

Passive			
A: It's washed. N: It's not washed. O: Is it washed?			
N: It's not washed.			
O: Is it washed?			

 Stand up exercise – You can use the puzzle in full or in part to encourage people to get together in groups. Perhaps by tense or simple / continuous / perfect groups.

The Timeline key provides a simple key to assist students. Please be aware that it is not a substitute for an effective explanation of all the variations of the tenses, because it only covers the most common uses of the tenses. (The key is provided on the next page for easy cutting out.)

Help with Electronic Whiteboards

This document is not really designed for display on the screen. Also on the Website are a number of charts to save you drawing tense timelines.

Where's the future and conditionals?

There's a lot of verb patterns not covered in this handout, so please check the Website for more handouts.

Timeline key		Timeline key	
	Simple tense		Simple tense
	Continuous tense – period of time		Continuous tense – period of time
Α	affirmative	A	affirmative
N	negative	N	negative
Q	Question	Q	Question

Timeline key		Timeline key	
	Simple tense		Simple tense
	Continuous tense – period of time		Continuous tense – period of time
Α	affirmative	Α	affirmative
N	negative	N	negative
Q	Question	Q	Question