

Chapter I

Overview of Verb Tenses

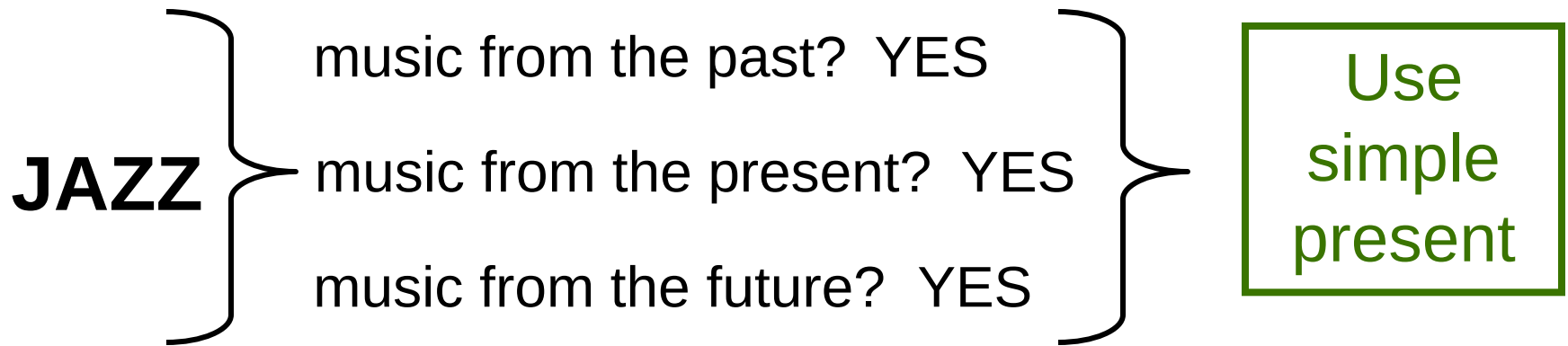


The History of Jazz

Jazz music **is** a constantly evolving musical style and is characterized by the fact that it **includes** many different styles of music from many different eras. The word *jazz* was first used to refer to music in Chicago around 1915. However, jazz **started** far earlier than that. The roots of jazz **began** in the 1800s in early blues, a folk music which **arose** in part from the work songs of rural Blacks. This music **was** highly improvisational, a feature which **remains** fundamental to jazz today. In fact, a skilled jazz performer **will interpret** a tune in very individual ways and **will** rarely **play** a song exactly the same way twice.

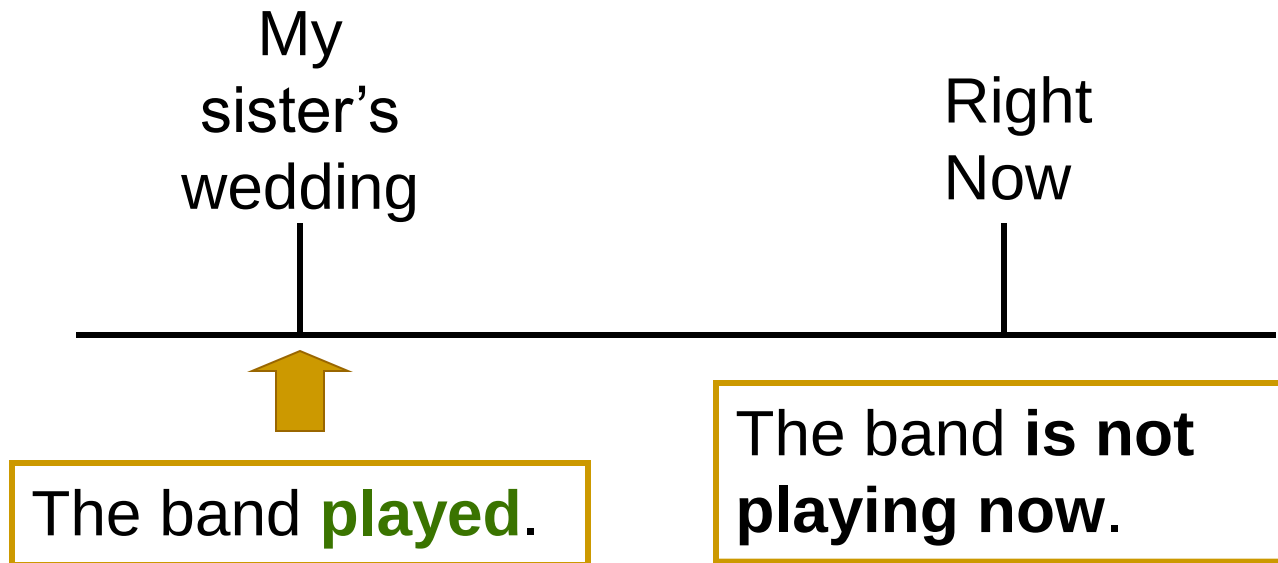
Use the simple present to talk about a situation that exists now, has existed in the past, and will probably exist in the future.

Jazz **includes** music from many eras.



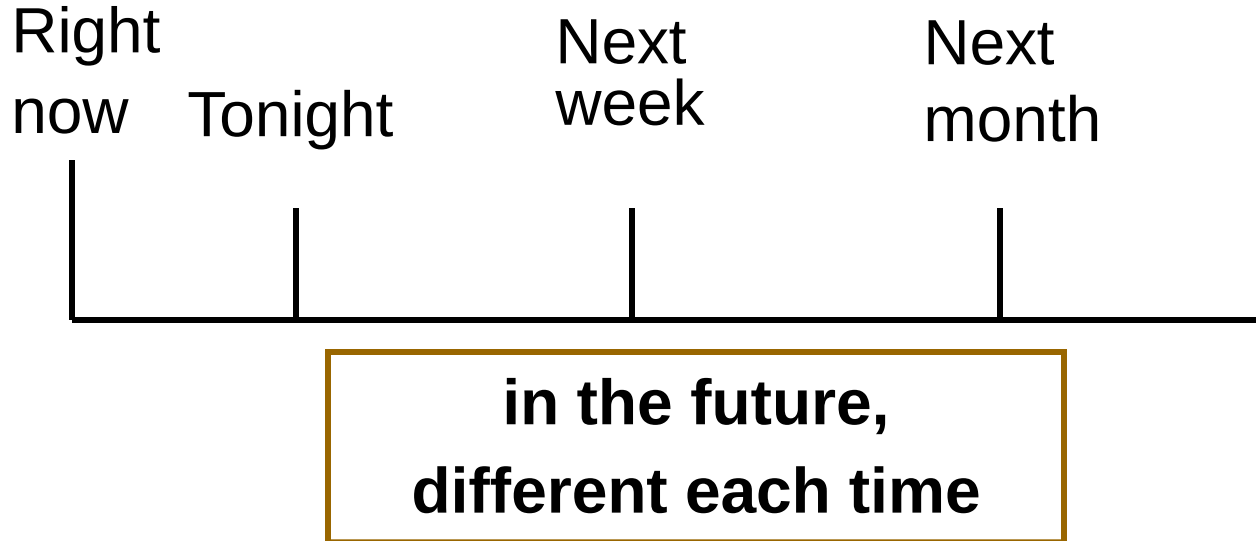
Use the simple past to talk about an action that began and ended in the past.

A jazz band **played** at my sister's wedding last week.



Use the simple future to talk about something that will happen at one particular time in the future.

A skilled performer **will** never **play** a song exactly the same way twice.



Practice 1

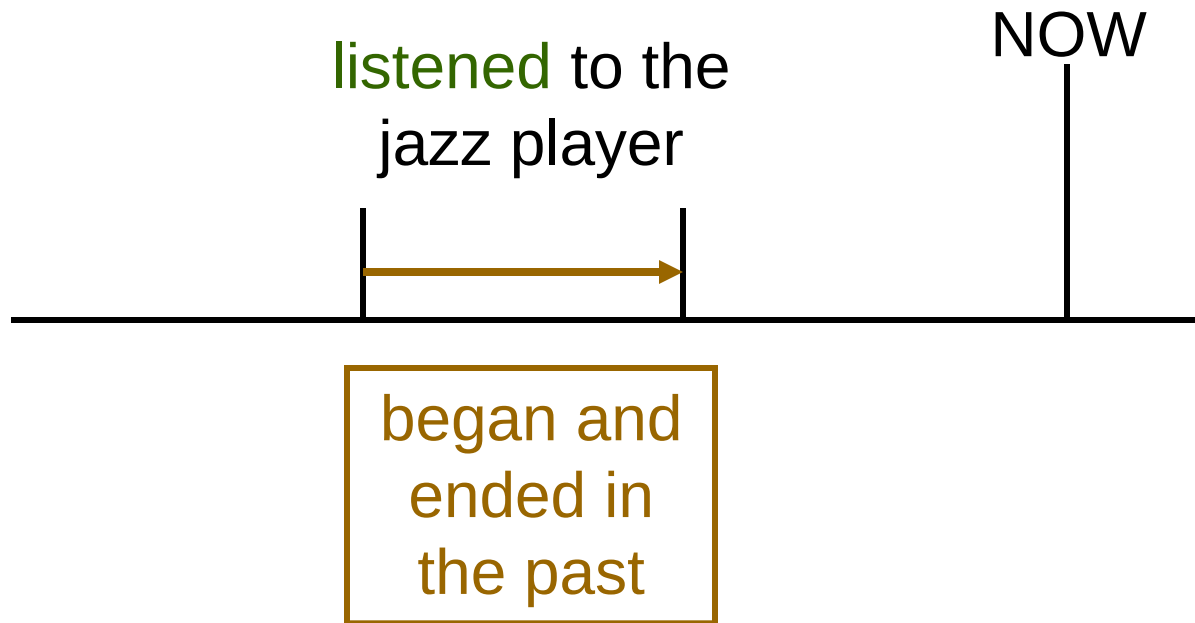
Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb.

1. The jazz show tomorrow night will start (*start*) at 8 o'clock.
2. The main trumpet player is sick? Who will play (*play*) for him in the concert tomorrow?
3. My sister listens (*listen*) to jazz all the time.
4. The last time I went (*go*) to a jazz concert the band played (*play*) for three hours!

In the 1800s, black musicians **learned** to play European musical instruments. Later in the early 1900s, as black musicians **were beginning** to play music at dances and clubs, ragtime **developed**. Ragtime **was** a modification of popular marches, with additional rhythms that **came** from African music. Ragtime gradually **merged** with the unique music that marching bands **played** at funerals in New Orleans. Later, the 1930s and 1940s **added** the smooth sounds of the big swing bands. By the 1950s and 1960s, the whole country **was enjoying** the works of jazz greats such as John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, and Miles Davis.

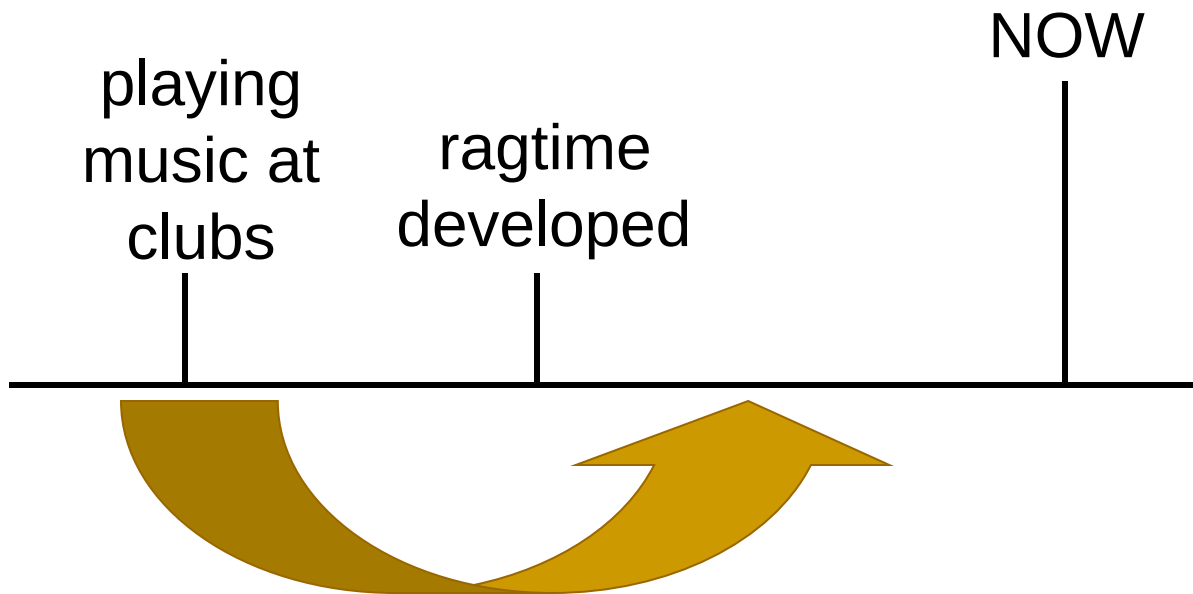
Use the simple past for an activity that began and ended at a particular time in the past.

Last week I **listened** to a famous jazz trumpeter at the local community college.



Use the past progressive for activities that were in progress at a particular time in the past.

Later in the early 1900s, as black musicians **were beginning** to play music at dances and clubs, ragtime developed.



Practice 2

Complete each sentence with the correct past tense form of the verb.

1. Many different musical styles **contributed** (*contribute*) to the development of jazz.
2. Early jazz musicians **combined** (*combine*) folk music, work songs, and rag-time.
3. During the middle of the 20th century, jazz **was influencing** (*influence*) not only musical styles, but also cultural styles in many parts of the country.
4. By the 1980s and 1990s, people all over the world **were listening** (*listen*) to jazz music.

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