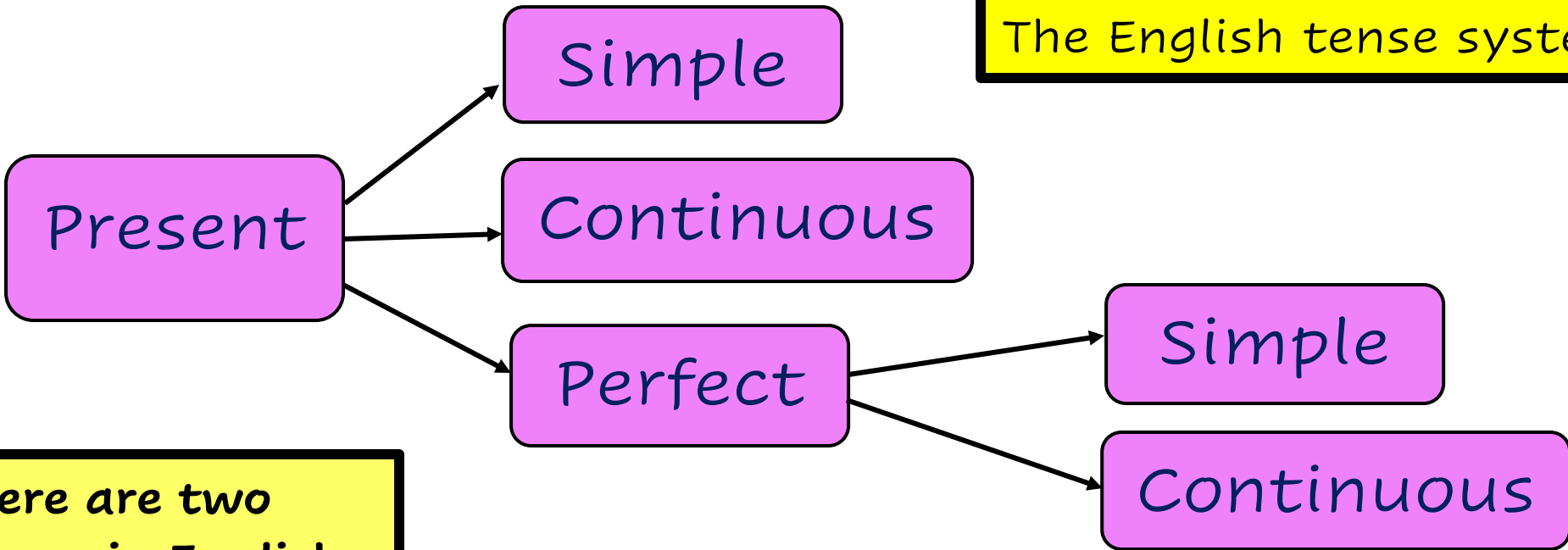
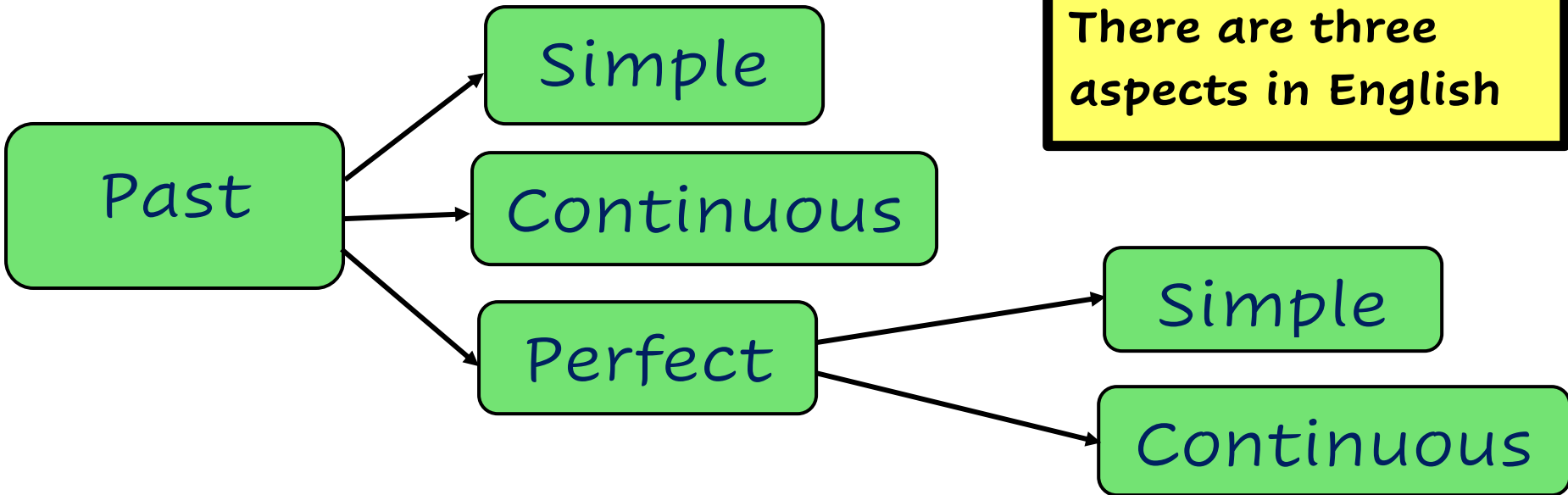


The English tense system



There are two tenses in English

There are three aspects in English



The **simple** aspect is for completed, permanent or habitual actions or events and for facts.

- I live in London.
- I often go to the gym at the weekend.
- The River Thames flows through London.
- I went back to work yesterday.
- I had an enormous breakfast this morning.

The **continuous** aspect is for actions or events in progress (continuing) and temporary situations.

- I'm studying hard for my exams.
- I'm living in London at the moment but I'm planning to move to Kent next year.
- I was walking down the road when I was stopped by the police.
- I was busy cooking my dinner while you were talking to me on the phone last night.

The **perfect** aspect links **two** periods of time which are **connected** in some way. It too can be **simple** or **continuous**.

- I've lived in London for 20 years.
- I've been living in London for 20 years.
- I've painted the house.
- I've been painting the house.
- I'd painted the house when the estate agent came to value it.
- I'd been painting the house when the estate agent came to value it.
- I will have finished painting the house by the time the estate agent comes to value it.
- I will have been painting the house for weeks by the time the estate agent comes to value it.

1



2



3



There is no future in English

Present
simple

(timetable future)

The train leaves at 10 am tomorrow.
We fly to Paris on Tuesday.
The builders start next week.

Present
continuous

(diary future –
arrangements)

I'm seeing the doctor on Wednesday at 3 pm.
He's meeting me later.
Is he coming to your party?
If he is, then I'm not coming.

'Going to'
future

(plans or evidence
that something
is about to happen)

I'm going to see my family at Christmas.
He's going to apply for university next year.
It's going to rain.
He's going to fall off that ladder.

Will

(prediction & volition)

I'll see you tomorrow.
I'll probably see you tomorrow.
I'll definitely be there tomorrow.
It'll be too late to ring you when I get home.
I won't help you anymore.

Will

is a **modal** verb. All **modal** verbs can be used for different degrees of **probability/possibility**.
Will can be used for **present** and **future**.

Volition (free will, decisions, choices, offers, promises etc.)



"I'll take the yellow one."



"I'll phone you later."



Prediction

"Don't worry. It'll be alright."

