

Past Simple is used for: - past actions that took place immediately one after the other. <i>He got in the car, started the engine and drove off.</i> - past habits or states which are now finished. In such cases, we can also use the expression <i>used to</i>. <i>When he was young, he rode/used to ride his bike to school.</i> - a complete action or event which happened at a stated time in the past. <i>She passed her exam last week. (When? "Last week" – stated time in the past)</i> - complete past actions not connected to the present with a stated or implied time reference <i>Elvis Presley made lots of records. (Elvis is dead; he won't record any more – period of time now finished – implied time reference)</i>	Past Continuous is used for: - an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past. We do not know when the action started or finished. <i>At 1 o'clock this afternoon they were having coffee.</i> - a past action which was in progress when another action interrupted it. <i>I was playing football when I broke my ankle. (The action in progress – was playing (Past Continuous) – was interrupted by another action – broke. Past Simple)</i> - two or more actions which were happening at the same time in the past (simultaneous actions). <i>He was cooking while she was sleeping.</i> - background description to events in a story/description. <i>They were travelling to Swansea ...</i>	Past Perfect is used for: - an action which happened before another past action or before a stated time in the past. <i>She had already cooked dinner when her husband came home. (She cooked dinner first and then her husband came.)</i> - an action which finished in the past and whose result was visible in the past. <i>When I saw Steve yesterday he was happy because he had found a new job.</i> - The Past Perfect is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect. <i>There was no pudding left; he had eaten it all. (Present perfect: There's no pudding left; he has eaten it all.)</i>	Past Perfect Continuous is used: - for an action of certain duration continuing up to a specific time in the past. <i>She had been trying to get a visa for months before she gave up.</i> - for a past action which lasted for some time in the past and whose result was visible in the past. <i>Her fingers ached because she had been playing the guitar all day.</i> - The Past Perfect Continuous is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect Continuous. <i>He had been feeling ill all week. (Present perfect: He's staying in bed today because he's been feeling ill all week.)</i>
--	--	---	---

complete these sentences with the verbs in the box. Use the correct tense – past simple, past perfect or past perfect continuous. Then check your answers in the text.

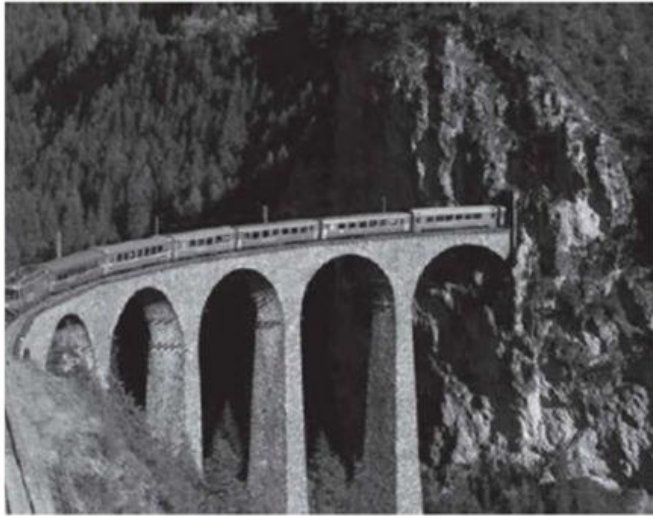
be become decide experiment find force increase play receive remodel

- The individuality of the properties had increased over the years as successive owners _____ their homes.
- Lawns _____ parking spaces while adventurous gardeners _____ with rocks and olive trees or palm trees.
- The children who _____ a fairly unenthusiastic game of football therefore _____ to take themselves off.
- The woman at number 20 _____ no doubt mindful of a crime prevention circular she _____ very recently.
- Someone _____ the door on a locked cupboard in the study and the police _____ the contents scattered on the floor.

Grammar

Past simple, past continuous, past perfect simple and past perfect continuous

- 1 Read these sentences about an overnight train journey from London to Switzerland and put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the past continuous.



- 1 By the time the train left (leave), it was getting (get) dark.
- 2 I (still look) for my seat when the train (stop) for the first time.
- 3 I (meet) a family from Scotland, who (go) to a wedding in France.
- 4 In the evening I (sit) in the buffet. I (not eat) much but I (talk) to some interesting people.
- 5 When I (wake up) in the morning, we (travel) through the vineyards.
- 6 As soon as we (cross) the border, I (begin) to feel excited.
- 7 When we (reach) the mountains, we (know) our journey was almost over.
- 8 The train (arrive) late and my friends (not wait) for me so I (take) a taxi to their flat.

- 2 For each gap, choose a verb from the box and put it into the past perfect or the past perfect continuous.

feel forget own stand up try wait

- 1 The crowd had been waiting for over an hour for the match to begin.
 - 2 We to open the door for five minutes when Ali found her key.
 - 3 When he died, my grandfather the business for more than 50 years.
 - 4 David unwell for a few days so he went to the doctor's.
 - 5 Katrina was really angry with me because I to tell her the change of plan.
 - 6 I was really pleased to sit down as I at work all day.
- 3 For each gap, put the verb in brackets into the past simple, past continuous, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

Last week I (1) went (go) to the mountains with my cousins. None of us (2) (ever ski) before so we (3) (look) forward to it for months. While we (4) (drive) to the airport, it (5) (start) to snow and we were really excited. But when we (6) (get) off the plane in the mountains, there (7) (not be) any snow at all. Everyone there (8) (say) it was too warm for snow. We (9) (go) to bed feeling sad that we wouldn't be able to ski. But when we (10) (get) up the next morning and (11) (look) out of the window we realised that it (12) (snow) all night and we would be able to ski after all.