

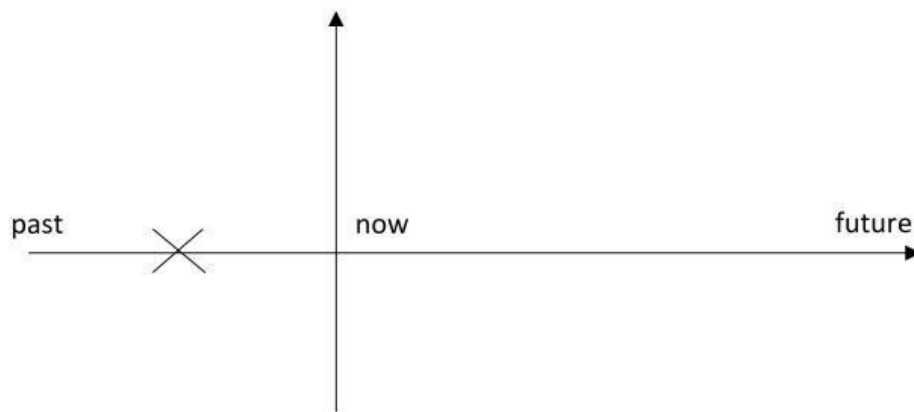
# Past Tenses

## Past Simple vs Past Continuous

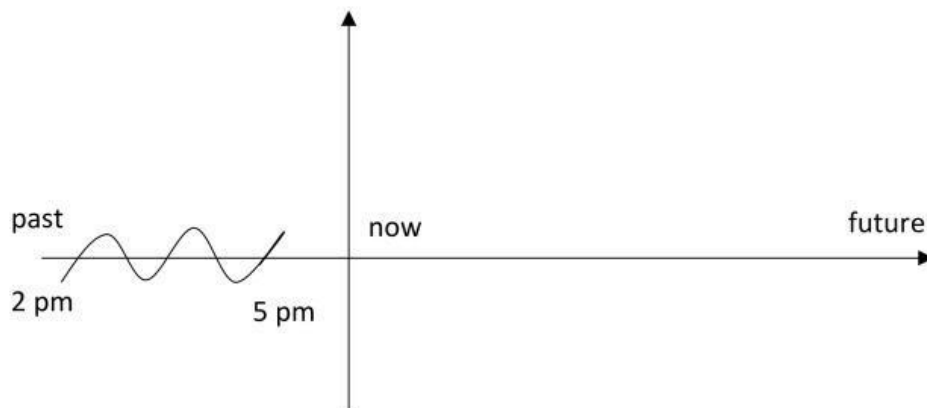
### Focus on meaning

Task 1. Complete the gaps with the correct tenses.

- We use the 1 for completed actions.  
e.g.: I 2 some salad at night.



- Use the 3 to talk about actions in progress at a particular time.  
e.g.: At 8 am yesterday I 4 to work.



- The 5 describes an action that starts first, but is interrupted by a short action. Use 6 for the second (usually short) action.  
e.g.: What 7 you 8 (do) when the bus crashed?  
I 8 (sleep) when the thief 8 (enter) the house.

- It is common to use 9 or 10 to link two actions. Use "11" before the continuous action.  
e.g.: 12 *I was sleeping, it started to rain.*
- "Use "13" before the continuous action or the short action.  
e.g.: 14 *we were talking, the bus appeared.*
- Do not use *while* before the 15 action.  
e.g.: *I was sleeping when it started to rain.*

## Focus on form

Task 2. Complete the table.

|   | Past Simple                                             | Past Continuous                                |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| + | I <b>talked</b> to her yesterday.<br>I <b>ran</b> 2 km. |                                                |
| - | I <u>16</u> there.                                      | I wasn't playing there.<br>We <u>17</u> there. |
| ? | Did you watch that movie?                               | <u>18</u> you that movie all night?            |

## Focus on pronunciation

Task 3. Listen to the audio and notice how "was" and "were" are pronounced. Are they weak or strong? Mark it with "W" or "S".

1. I **was running** when it started to snow. So I went home!
2. I **was waiting** for a bus when I met my boss, so we went for a drink.
3. I **was watching** TV when I recognised my best friend, so I called her.
4. I **was walking** home when I found \$5000 in a bag, so I took it to the police.
5. We **were travelling** by plane when a man with a gun stood up, so we hit him, took a gun and became heroes!
6. We **were riding** our bicycles when a cow walked across the road, so we stopped.
7. We **were eating** in a restaurant when we saw a mouth, so we told the waiter and didn't pay.
8. I **was studying** in my room when I heard a loud music next door, so I went to complain and they invited me to their party.

#### Task 4.

**A** Complete the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple or past continuous.

Alvin Straight, a 73-year-old, <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (live) quietly on his farm in Iowa, USA, when he heard the news that his brother, Lyle, was seriously ill. After ten years with no contact between the brothers, Alvin <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to visit Lyle. Alvin couldn't drive so he <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a lawnmower, which moved at five miles per hour, and <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) the 250-mile-journey.

While he <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (travel), he met many people, including a priest and a teenage girl who was running away from her family. He helped them all simply by talking about life. Some of them also <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (help) him. For example, one day when he <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) the lawnmower, it broke down. While two mechanics <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (fix) it, he met a friendly couple and <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) with them.

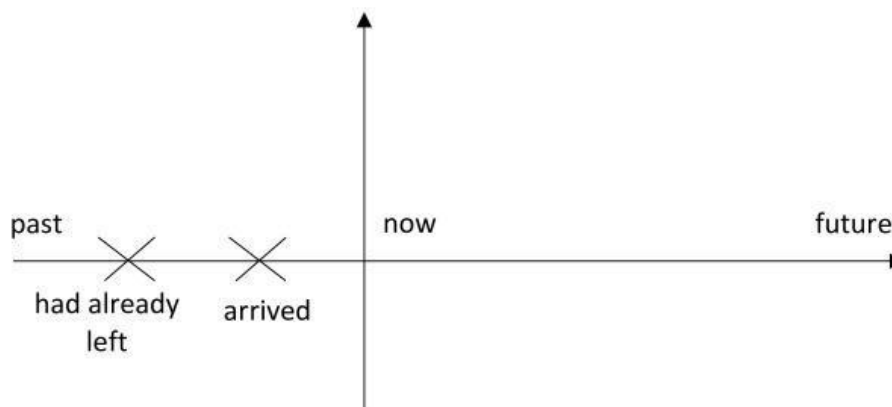
The journey took him six weeks. And <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the story \_\_\_\_\_ (end) happily? See the 1999 film, *The Straight Story*, to find out!

### Past Perfect vs Past Simple

#### Focus on meaning

**Task 1. Complete the gaps with the correct tenses.**

- Use the <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ for the first actions that happened in the past.  
e.g.: My friends <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) by the time I arrived.  
When we arrived at the restaurant, my friends <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_.



## Focus on form

Task 2. Complete the table with the correct forms.

|   |                                                    |
|---|----------------------------------------------------|
|   | Past Perfect                                       |
| + | I <b>had phoned</b> him 2 weeks before he arrived. |
| - |                                                    |
| ? |                                                    |

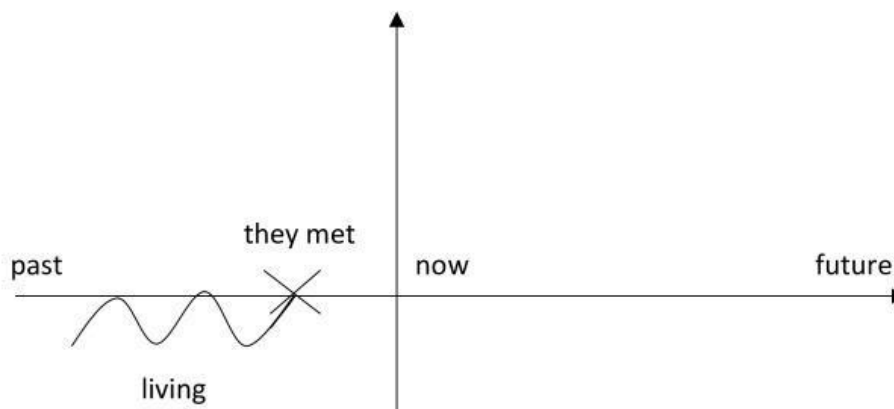
## Past Perfect vs Past Perfect Continuous

### Focus on meaning and form

Task 1. Complete the gaps with the correct tenses.

- Use the 1 (had + 2 + 3) to talk about longer actions or situations which started in the past and continued up to the moment in the past.

e.g.: She 4 (live) there for a week before they met.



- Before a point where there is evidence of a recent activity.

e.g.: David looked very tired because he 5 (work) all night.



## Task 2.

Complete the story using the correct tenses.

I thought I a (do) a lot of research before I b (go) to Ukraine but looking back I realised I c (have) a lot of gaps in the knowledge base and worse some pretty unrealistic expectations. Partly fuelled by my own enthusiasm and partly by the Tour Company hyperbole. There are some things I d (forget) to read about before I e (leave) home.

First of all, I f (prepare) myself for just another East European city, but when

I g (drive) through Kyiv I

h (can) see how different it was from all the places I i (go) to.



I j (be told) that I had to know the language, but it k (turn out) that many people could speak English and I l (not have) any problems finding the way back to the hotel or ordering food in restaurants. Speaking of the cuisine – I m (expect) it to be much more different! I was surprised by the variety, the taste, and the amount of street food, which I absolutely love.

All and all, I'm glad I o (decide) to go to Ukraine because the time I spent there

p (be) unforgettable.