Past Tenses

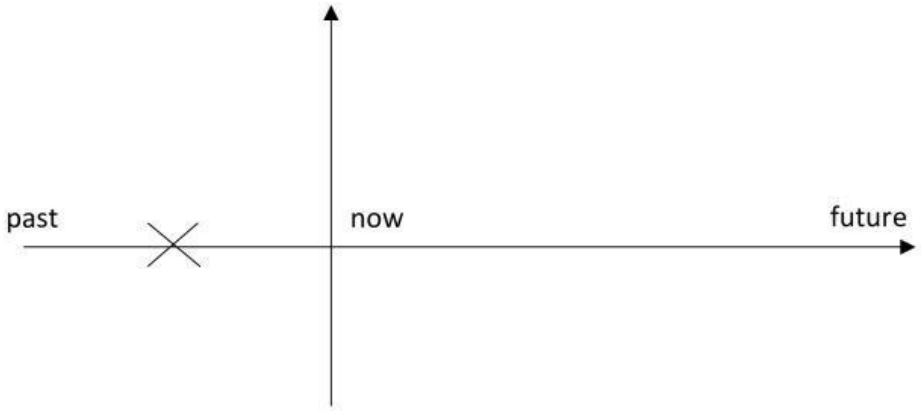
Past Simple vs Past Continuous

Focus on meaning

Task 1. Complete the gaps with the correct tenses.

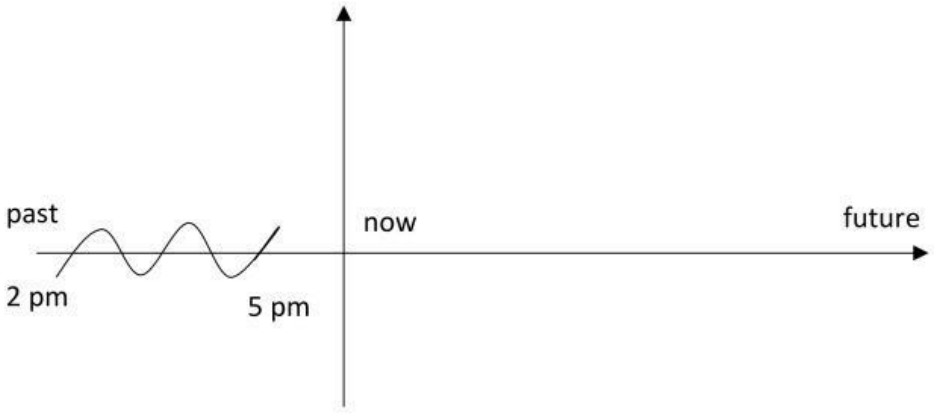
- We use the 1 _____ for completed actions.

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 _____ (do) when the bus crashed?
I 8 _____ _____ (sleep) when the thief _____ (enter) the house.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- 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 <u>when</u> it started to rain.

Focus on form

Task 2. Complete the table.

	Past Simple	Past Continuous
+	I **talked** to her yesterday. I **ran** 2 km.	
-	I 16 _____ _____ there.	I wasn't playing there. We 17 _____ _____ there.
?	Did you watch that movie?	18 _____ 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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, [1]_____ (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 [2]_____ (decide) to visit Lyle. Alvin couldn't drive so he [3]_____ (buy) a lawnmower, which moved at five miles per hour, and [4]_____ (begin) the 250-mile-journey.

While he [5]_____ (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 [6]_____ (help) him. For example, one day when he [7]_____ (drive) the lawnmower, it broke down. While two mechanics [8]_____ (fix) it, he met a friendly couple and [9]_____ (stay) with them.

The journey took him six weeks. And [10]_____ the story_____ (end) happily? See the 1999 film, *The Straight Story*, to find out!

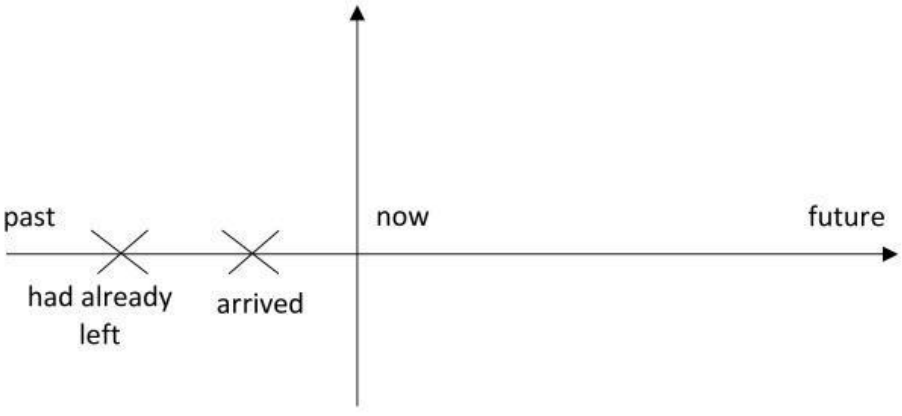
Past Perfect vs Past Simple

Focus on meaning

Task 1. Complete the gaps with the correct tenses.

- Use the [1]_____ for the first actions that happened in the past.

e.g.: My friends [2]_____ _____ (leave) by the time I arrived.
When we arrived at the restaurant, my friends [3]_____ already _____.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Focus on form

Task 2. Complete the table with the correct forms.

	Past Perfect
+	I **had phoned** him 2 weeks before he arrived.
-	
?	

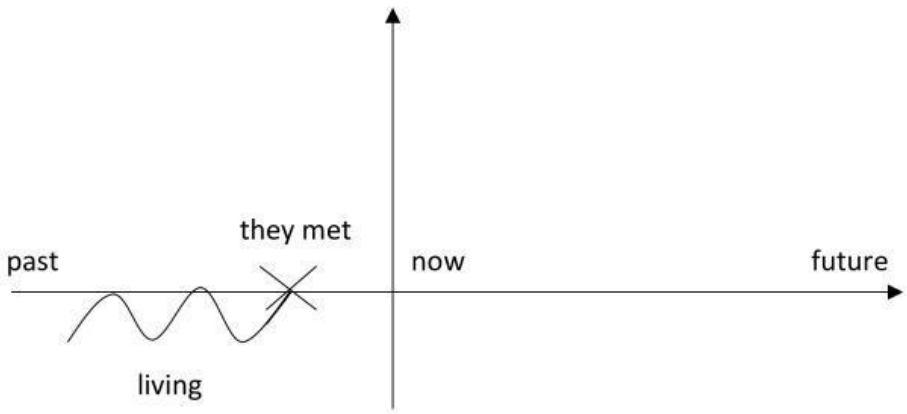
Past Perfect vs Past Perfect Continuous

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.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS