

## Past Forms

### Past Simple

past actions which happened one after the other  
*She **sealed** the letter, **put** a stamp on it and **posted** it.*

past habit or state  
*He **used to go/went to** school on foot.*  
 complete action or event which happened at a stated past time  
*She **called** an hour ago. (When? An hour ago.)*

action which happened at a definite past time although the time is not mentioned. This action is not connected with the present. *Shakespeare **wrote** a lot of plays. (Shakespeare is now dead; he won't write again. - period of time now finished)*

### Past Continuous

action in the middle of happening at a stated past time  
*He **was playing** tennis at 4.30 yesterday.*

past action in progress interrupted by another past action. The longer action is in the Past Continuous, the shorter action is in the Past Simple. *While I **was getting dressed** the bell rang.*

two or more simultaneous past actions  
*While I **was sunbathing**, Tim **was swimming**.*  
 or background description to events in a story  
*She **was flying** to Paris. The sun **was shining** ...*

### Past Perfect

past action which occurred before another action or before a stated past time  
*He **had left** by the time I got there. (or by 8.15)*

complete past action which had visible results in the past  
*She **was sad** because she **had failed** the test.*

the Past Perfect is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect  
*(He **can't find** his watch. He **has lost** it.)*  
*He **couldn't find** his watch. He **had lost** it.*

### Past Perfect Continuous

action continuing over a period up to a specific time in the past  
*She **had been working** as a clerk **for 10 years** before she resigned.*

past action of certain duration which had visible results in the past  
*They **were wet** because they **had been walking** in the rain.*

the Past Perfect Cont. is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect Continuous  
*(She **is going to the doctor**. Her leg **has been aching** for two days.)*  
*She **went to the doctor**. Her leg **had been aching** for two days.*

### Time expressions used with:

#### Past Simple

yesterday, last week etc, (how long) ago, then, just now, when, in 1967 etc

#### Past Continuous

while, when, as etc

#### Past Perfect

for, since, already, after, just, never, yet, before, by, by the time etc

#### Past Perfect Cont.

for, since

### 26 Fill in with Past Simple or Past Continuous.

Last night I 1) *was* ... (be) alone at home. I 2) .....  
 ..... (lie) on my bed and I 3) .....  
 ..... (watch) TV when I 4) .....  
 ..... (hear) a strange noise. The noise 5) .....  
 ..... (come) from the kitchen. I  
 6) ..... (go) downstairs, 7) .....  
 (pick up) a heavy vase from the table and 8) .....  
 (head for) the kitchen. I 9) ..... (open) the  
 door very slowly. Then I 10) ..... (see) someone. He  
 11) ..... (search) in the fridge. I 12) .....  
 (be) so frightened that I 13) ..... (drop) the vase I  
 14) ..... (carry) and it  
 15) ..... (crash) onto the floor. The man  
 16) ..... (turn) towards the door and I  
 17) ..... (see) his face. It was my husband!





**25 Match the sentences with the correct tense description.**

1. It was raining and the wind was blowing.
2. He was exhausted because he had been walking all day.
3. There was no juice left because Jack had drunk it all.
4. She had finished by 8 o'clock.
5. The storm broke out after we had been driving for four hours.
6. He got into the plane, started the engine and flew off into the clouds.
7. The party had already started by the time I arrived.
8. Elvis Presley died in 1977.
9. I was cycling to work when I fell off the bike.
10. My grandfather met Winston Churchill.
11. I was sleeping at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon.
12. She had been trying to find a job in Hollywood for years.

- a. past equivalent of the Present Perfect
- b. action in the middle of happening at a stated past time
- c. past actions which happened one after the other
- d. action which is not connected with the present and happened at a definite past time not mentioned
- e. background description to events in a story
- f. action continuing over a period up to a specific time in the past
- g. past equivalent of the Present Perfect Continuous
- h. past action which occurred before another action
- i. past action in progress interrupted by another
- j. past action which occurred before a stated time in the past
- k. event which happened at a stated past time
- l. past action of certain duration which had visible results in the past

- |                 |         |         |          |          |          |
|-----------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. .... e ..... | 2. .... | 3. .... | 4. ....  | 5. ....  | 6. ....  |
| 7. ....         | 8. .... | 9. .... | 10. .... | 11. .... | 12. .... |

**28 Fill in with Past Simple or Past Perfect then state which action happened first.**

1. When I ...left... (leave) the house, I ...realised... (realise) that I ...had forgotten... (forget) my keys.  
First action : ...had forgotten...
2. After I ..... (finish) digging the garden I ..... (decide) to go for a walk.  
First action : .....
3. I ..... (lend) Fiona some money only after she ..... (promise) to give it back the next day. First action : .....
4. They kept arguing about the money their father ..... (leave) them in his will when he ..... (die).  
First action : .....
5. Kate ..... (start) studying after John ..... (leave). First action : .....
6. I ..... (buy) Beckie a plant yesterday because she ..... (sing) so well in the concert the night before. First action : .....
7. When I ..... (see) Julie, I ..... (realise) that I ..... (meet) her before.  
First action : .....

**32** Fill in with Past Perfect Continuous or Past Continuous, then identify the speech situation.

action over a period up to a specific past time, past action in progress interrupted by another,  
past action of certain duration with visible results in the past

1. ...action over a period up to  
...a specific past time .....



He *had been cooking*. (cook)  
until 12 o'clock.

2. ....



She ..... (fry)  
fish when the pan caught fire.

3. ....



He was tired. He .....  
..... (drive) all day.

4. ....



He ..... (watch)  
TV when his wife came home.

5. ....



He ..... (ski) when  
he fell over and broke his leg.

6. ....



He ..... (ski) all  
day. He was exhausted.

**38** Fill in with Past Simple, Present Simple, Present Continuous or Present Perfect.

Jane: Hi, Johnny. I 1) *haven't heard*. (not/hear) from you for a long time. Where 2) ..... (you/be)?  
Johnny: I 3) ..... (start) a new job six months ago. I 4) ..... (be) a computer salesman  
now. I 5) ..... (enjoy) it very much. My company 6) ..... (send) me abroad every  
few weeks. Last month I 7) ..... (go) to Japan - it 8) ..... (be) fantastic!  
Jane: Wow! Japan! How long 9) ..... (you/stay) there? Tell me all about it.  
Johnny: I 10) ..... (stay) there for three weeks in a luxurious hotel. The company always 11) .....  
(pay) for everything.  
Jane: I'd love a job like yours.  
Johnny: Well actually, Jane, that 12) ..... (be) the reason why I 13) ..... (call) you  
now. I 14) ..... (need) an assistant. Last week, the company 15) ..... (tell) me to  
choose someone and I immediately 16) ..... (think) of you. What 17) .....  
(you/think)?  
Jane: When 18) ..... (I/start)?



### 39 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct past form.

I remember when I 1) ... *went* ... (go) on holiday abroad for the first time. I 2) ... (just/leave) school. I 3) ... (study) very hard for my final exams and I 4) ... (feel) that I needed a holiday. A friend of mine 5) ... (want) to come as well so we 6) ... (look) at some brochures from the travel agent's. We 7) ... (read) for about an hour when my friend 8) ... (find) the perfect holiday - two weeks in Hawaii. We 9) ... (be) very excited about it. Finally the day of our holiday 10) ... (arrive). We 11) ... (just/leave) the house when the phone 12) ... (ring). I 13) ... (run) back into the house, but the phone 14) ... (stop) by the time I 15) ... (reach) it. When we 16) ... (arrive) at the airport we 17) ... (sit) in the cafeteria. The airline 18) ... (just/make) an announcement. Our flight was delayed for eight hours. We 19) ... (get up) very early and rushed to the airport, all for nothing.



### 42 Fill in with Past Simple or Present Perfect.

1. A: I ... *Have you been* ... (you/be) on holiday this year?  
B: No, I ... (can/not) go, because I ... (break) my leg in August and ... (have) to stay in hospital.
2. A: ... (you/visit) the National Museum yet?  
B: Yes, I ... (be) there three times, but I ... (not/see) everything yet.
3. A: I'm ever so sorry, Jim, but I ... (burn) your dinner. Maria ... (phone) and I ... (forget) about the food.  
B: That's okay. I ... (already/eat).
4. A: I ... (buy) a new dress yesterday, but when I ... (arrive) home, I ... (find) a hole in the seam.  
B: What ... (you/do)? ... (you/take) it back to the shop?  
A: No, I ... (not/be) into town yet. I'll do it this afternoon.
5. A: Your hair ... (grow) a lot since I last ... (see) you.  
B: Yes, I ... (want) to get it cut yesterday but I ... (be) too busy.
6. A: I ... (never/fly) before and I'm very nervous about it.  
B: I ... (feel) like that the first time I ... (fly), but I thoroughly ... (enjoy) it.
7. A: I ... (lose) my glasses. ... (you/see) them anywhere?  
B: No. Where ... (you/put) them?  
A: I ... (put) them on the table a minute ago, but they're not there now.
8. A: ... (you/ever/meet) anyone famous?  
B: Yes, I ... (speak) to Paul McCartney and I ... (see) John Lennon before he was killed.
9. A: Where ... (you/go) on holiday?  
B: To Rhodes. ... (you/be) there?  
A: Yes, I ... (go) there last year. We ... (swim) every day. It was great!
10. A: How's your job, Mike?  
B: I ... (just/start) a new one. I ... (leave) the old one because they ... (not/pay) me enough money.
11. A: When ... (you/leave) school?  
B: I ... (leave) in 1980, I ... (finish) university in 1984 and I ... (have) three jobs since then.
12. A: ... (you/see) "Barabas" on TV last night?  
B: No I ... (see) it so many times already that I ... (not/want) to watch it again.