

News and Past tenses – Past Simple, Continuous and Perfect.

1 Read the news articles.

1) Couple celebrate with 50-year-old chicken

A Manchester couple celebrated 50 years of marriage by eating a tin of chicken they were given on their wedding day. They **had kept** it as a memory of their big day in 1971. They **had promised** each other to eat it on their golden wedding anniversary. When the big day came, they opened the tin – and found the chicken was still good. A food expert said, “Tinned food can last forever and this tin **had** obviously **been** closed properly.”

2) Cat party

A village in China organised a fish party for more than 200 cats. The villagers **had bought** the cats to control the rats on their land. The move was a great success and the villagers decided to reward the cats for their good work.

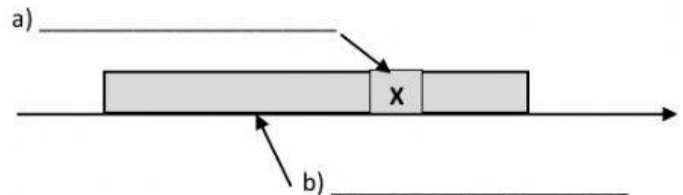
3) Dog on runway

Two passengers stopped a packed Boeing 767 just before take-off. Terry and Susan Smith were sitting on the plane when they saw their spaniel, Poppy, chased by airport security staff. They shouted for the pilot to stop the plane and rushed out to help catch their pet. They **had put** Poppy in a cage on the cargo deck but she somehow escaped as the plane was going to the runway. Even with the help of the owners, it took more than ten minutes to catch the terrified dog.

Grammar: Past tenses

2 Read the sentence and put the names of tenses on the timeline: Past Simple, Past Continuous.

Terry and Susan Smith **were sitting** on the plane when they **saw** their spaniel, Poppy.



3 Complete the sentences from the text with the correct forms of Past Perfect. Then look at the text again and complete the rule.

1 The villagers _____ the cats to control the rats.

2 They _____ Poppy in a cage on the cargo deck.

We use the Past Perfect to talk about an event that happened **before / after** other events in the past.

4 Look at the two events in each sentence (a-b). Underline the event that happened first.

a) When the big day **came**, they **opened** the tin.

b) When the big day **came**, they **had opened** the tin.

5) Match the tenses with the correct usage and structure.

Past Simple	Use about action in progress at a particular time in the past	X – Verb+ed / 2nd form.
Past Continuous	Use about action that happened before another action	X – had – Verb+ed/3rd form
Past Perfect	Use about a completed action in the past	X – was/were – Verb+ing

6 Match the sentences with the pictures.

- 1 When they started singing, everybody left the room.
- 2 When they started singing, everybody had left the room.



- 3 We saw that someone had been in the kitchen.
- 4 We saw that someone was in the kitchen.



8 Complete the texts with the verbs in Past Simple, Continuous and Perfect.

People in the Sea Garden park in Varna Bulgaria
 1 _____ (enjoy) their afternoon
 when an escaped tiger 2 _____
 (come) through the gates. Everybody
 3 _____ (run) away in panic. The
 tiger 4 _____ (escape) from its cage
 at the zoo. The police
 5 _____ (catch) the animal and
 6 _____ (take) it back to the zoo.

A cow 7 _____ (jump) into a
 neighbour's swimming pool during a heatwave in
 Brazil. The owner of the house said: "I
 8 _____ (cook) lunch when I
 9 _____ (heard) a noise. I
 10 _____ (go) out to check what
 11 _____ (happen) and I
 12 _____ (see) a cow in the
 swimming pool! It 13 _____ (get)
 over the fence and 14 _____ (go)
 straight to the pool." Fire fighters
 15 _____ (get) the animal out of the
 pool and 16 _____ (take) it back to
 the farmer.

7 Match events (1-3) with reasons (a-f). There are two possible reasons for each event. Use the Past Perfect for the reasons. Write the sentences in your notebook.

Example: 1 Terry failed his math test because he hadn't studied enough.

What happened?

- 1 Terry failed his math test.
- 2 Josh was taken to the hospital.
- 3 A pop star was put in prison.

Why?

- a) didn't study enough
- b) caused a tragic accident
- c) went to a party the night before
- d) stole clothes from a shop
- e) a dog bit him
- f) fell off a horse