

Past Simple	Past Continuous	Past Perfect	Past Perfect Continuous
is used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.</i> (When? "Last week" – stated time in the past) complete past actions not connected to the present with a stated or implied time reference <i>Elvis Presley made lots of records.</i> (Elvis is dead; he won't record any more – period of time now finished – implied time reference) 	is used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.</i> (The action in progress – <i>was playing</i> (Past Continuous) – was interrupted by another action – <i>broke</i>. Past Simple) 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> 	is used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.</i> (She cooked dinner first and then her husband came.) 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.</i> (Present perfect: There's no pudding left; he has eaten it all.) 	Past Perfect Continuous is used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 stayed in bed that day because he had been feeling ill all week.</i> (Present perfect: He's staying in bed today because he's been feeling ill all week.)

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

- 1 The individuality of the properties had increased over the years as successive owners remodelled their homes.
- 2 Lawns had increased parking spaces while adventurous gardeners had covered with rocks and olive trees or palm trees.
- 3 The children who had been playing a fairly unenthusiastic game of football therefore had to take themselves off.
- 4 The woman at number 20 had received no doubt mindful of a crime prevention circular she had been very recently.
- 5 Someone had forced the door on a locked cupboard in the study and the police had found 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.