

Complete Advanced - Verb Forms to Talk About the Past

1. THE PAST SIMPLE describes:

- actions or events in the past and things that happened over a longer period
I **was** his teacher last year, and he 1) _____ in his studies.

2. THE PAST CONTINUOUS describes:

- an action 3) _____ at a certain time in the past
He **was taking** a bath at 5 o'clock yesterday.

3. THE PAST PERFECT is used:

- to talk about an event or action that happened 5) _____ another event or action in the past
I asked him why he **hadn't given** me his essay

yet.

4. THE PRESENT PERFECT is used:

- to describe past events or actions that 7) _____ the present
I've been playing them every day, and I'm feeling more confident in my English.

The present perfect SIMPLE is used to:

- emphasize the 9) _____
He's **spent** too much time playing that computer game.
- focus on an activity being complete
I've tried to convince him to limit his screen time.
- give the idea that something is permanent
Language learning **has never been** easy for me.
- say how many times an action has been repeated
I've tried using different apps loads of times since I started college.

5. USED TO vs. WOULD

- We use **used to** to describe habits, actions, 11) _____ or situations in the past (that no longer happen)
I **used to** be terrible at French when I was at school.

- two past actions or events in the order in which they 2) _____
He **began** to make an excuse, and I immediately **knew** he wasn't telling the truth.

- a longer past activity that was interrupted
While I 4) _____ to him, he just walked away.

We often use the **past perfect continuous**:

- to emphasize that the action was extended or repeated
I 6) _____ a little worried about his progress.
- to focus on an activity rather than saying exactly when it happened
8) _____

a change in Marco's behavior? Yes, I have.

The present perfect CONTINUOUS is used to:

- emphasize the 10) _____
He's **been spending** too much time playing that computer game.
- focus on the action being incomplete
I've been trying to convince him to limit his screen time.
- give the idea that something is temporary
I **haven't been focusing** on my English studies lately.
- not state a specific duration for a repeated action
I've been feeling more confident in my English, definitely.

- We use **would** to describe only habits and 12) _____ (never states or situations) that are no longer true.
I **would** dread being asked questions in class.

