

Past tenses

I can talk about events that took place in the past.



- 1 **SPEAKING** Describe the photo. Have you ever been to a wedding? What was it like?

LEARN THIS! Past tenses

- a We use the past simple for a sequence of events that happened one after the other.
- b We use the past continuous to describe an activity that was in progress at a certain time in the past.
- c We use the past simple for a single event that interrupted a longer event in the past. We use the past continuous for the longer event.
- d We use the past perfect for an event that happened before another time in the past.

- 2 Read the **Learn this!** box. Match a–d with four sentences from 1–9.

- 1 We went to the wedding ceremony in the town hall, then on to the reception – we ate loads then danced all night.
- 2 They've been having dancing lessons, so now they're both really confident on the dancefloor.
- 3 We were eating dinner when the band began to play.
- 4 We were celebrating all day on the wedding day.
- 5 My mum had ordered the cake the week before the wedding.
- 6 My older sister has been living with her fiancé for two years.
- 7 My little sister has been a bridesmaid three times.
- 8 My cousin has been engaged for six weeks.
- 9 I haven't met my cousin's fiancé yet.

- 3 Complete the sentences with the correct past simple, past continuous, or past perfect form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 My brother _____ (learn) to drive while he _____ (study) at university.
- 2 It _____ (snow) all the time that we _____ (drive) up to Scotland.
- 3 I _____ (grow) up in London, but when I was sixteen, we _____ (move) to Edinburgh.
- 4 My sister finally _____ (get) her first job a year after she _____ (leave) university!
- 5 My mum _____ (emigrate) to New York, and she _____ (start) a business while she _____ (live) there.
- 6 I _____ (meet) my best friend last night. I _____ (not see) her for over a year!

➔ Grammar Builder I.3 page 122

- 4 Read the **Learn this!** box. Then find examples from the sentences in exercise 2 for each rule (a–e).

LEARN THIS! Present perfect simple and continuous

We use the present perfect simple to talk about:

- a how long a current situation has existed (often with *for* and *since*).
- b a completed experience at an unspecified time in the past.
- c an event that is strongly connected with the present (often with *just*, *already* and *yet*).

We use the present perfect continuous to talk about:

- d an event that began in the past and is still in progress. (We often use *for* or *since* to say how long the event has been in progress.)
- e an event that has recently stopped and which explains the present situation.

- 5 Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

- 1 I've **been reading** / **read** this book all week, but I still haven't **been finishing** / **finished** it.
- 2 Mary's face is red because she has **been jogging** / **jogged** for an hour.
- 3 My parents have **been marrying** / **married** for 25 years.
- 4 It's **been raining** / **rained** all morning and I don't think it'll ever stop.
- 5 We've **been buying** / **bought** a new house, and we move in next week!
- 6 I've **been studying** / **studied** maths all night, but it still doesn't make any sense to me.

➔ Grammar Builder I.4 and I.5 pages 123–124

- 6 Complete the text with the verbs in brackets. Use the correct tense from the two **Learn this!** boxes.

I ¹ _____ just _____ (receive) an email from my cousin Carl. I ² _____ (not see) him since he ³ _____ (get) married last summer. We all ⁴ _____ (go) to the wedding. It ⁵ _____ (be) great fun. I ⁶ _____ (not go) to a wedding before. Anyway, he and Sally ⁷ _____ (be) married for about nine months now. They ⁸ _____ (live) in London since the marriage. According to Carl, Sally ⁹ _____ (work) really hard and her boss ¹⁰ _____ (offer) her a job in the Paris office. That's great news. She's going to accept it. She ¹¹ _____ (learn) French while she ¹² _____ (live) in France in the 1990s, so she'll have no problem settling in there.

- 7 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 How many family events have you been to in the past few years?
- 2 What kind of events were they? What happened?