1. Before we go ahead, let's see how much you already know about the past in English! Drag & drop these into the thoughts, trash, or fruit basket. (NB, "Drop" spots are sensitive on the upper left.)

PAST PERFECT

SIMPLE PAST

NO!!!

YES!!!

PRESENT PERFECT

"MERE FACT" CLOSED TIME



PRECEDENCE & RELATIONSHIP



"URGENT NOW" OPEN TIME



ONE SHOWS ANTIQUITY



NONE SHOWS ANTIQUITY



Do this first before going ahead!

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There! That's all you need to know in a nutshell about the 3 common indicative pasts to know how to use them. Surprised? You might be depending on how your native language does pasts. Want some hints? Look back at the first page!

2. Let's practice a bit. Tick the correct versions *based on the available information*:



a. _____ Yesterday, I went to the store. | _____ Yesterday, I've been to the store.

b. _____ You learned to use the XYZ app on your cell, but there's more to learn.

_____ You've learned to use the XYZ app on your cell, but there's more to learn.

c. _____ Star's been camping a few times, and hated it; she'll never go, again.

_____ Star went camping a few times, and hated it; she'll never go, again.

d. _____ They had run out of punch before I got there, so I wasn't able to drink any.

_____ They had run out of punch, and then I got there to see John.

e. _____ It's 11:30 AM; has John arrived, yet?! I need to speak with him this morning!

_____ It's 11:30 AM; did John arrive, yet?! I need to speak with him this morning!

f. _____ Star's been to India several times, and wants to go, again; she loves it!

_____ Star went to India several times, and wants to go, again; she loves it!

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Now on to the continuous forms!

All three past tenses have continuous forms (-ing). They keep their basic essences, while emphasizing the DURATION of the acts. However, two of them indicate that the action – no matter how long it lasted – also ENDED in the past, interrupted by something in the simple past, while one of them indicates that not just the importance, but also the action CONTINUES into the present*. Do you know which is which? Tick the correct versions.

3. _____ I had been working for her company. | _____ I have been working for her company.
4. _____ She was working when he called. | _____ She has been working when he called.
5. _____ She had been travelling a long time before she stopped for a few months to rest.
   _____ She was travelling a long time before she stopped for a few months to rest.
6. _____ "... for five months / ... since 2002." | _____ "...since five months / ... for 2002."

*This is logical...if you think about it for a second...because at least the *START* of the action began and ended in the past, that's why it's kind of a blend of the past and the present. ...

Remember, too, that the names of the tenses help you know how to make and use them!

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7. More clarity? Draw a line between the correct pairs. (NB, "Drop" spots are sensitive on the upper left.)

a. FORM:

-ed and irregular forms	present perfect
"has/have" + past participle	simple past
"had" + past participle	simple past continuous
"was" + "verb-ing"	past perfect continuous
"has/have" + been + "verb-ing"	past perfect
"had" + been + "verb-ing"	present perfect continuous

b. USE:

Unrelated past action, interrupted	past perfect continuous
Related past action, interrupted	past continuous
Began in past, continues in the present	present perfect continuous

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Began & ended earlier, but not "urgent" now; time closed	simple past
Began & ended earlier, still "urgent / important" now; time open	present perfect
Began & ended prior to and related to another past action	past perfect

8. So, what can you do if…? Tick the right boxes (*there may be more than one right answer*):

a. …there is a series of unrelated "mere facts"?

i. _____ Use the simple past and words such as "and" and "then" between the events.

ii. _____ Use the past perfect continuous, anyway, because you did them one before the other.

b. …you need the continuous, but the verb you want can't be used in the continuous?

i. _____ Use the related non-continuous tense.

ii. _____ Think of an appropriate continuous verb, and use that one, instead.

c. …you need to say that something is very very very very old?

i. _____ Use words such as "very old" or "ancient." | ii. _____ Use the past perfect.

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9. Now that you've learned and reviewed, let's see how much you remember about the past in English! Drag & drop these into the thoughts, trash, or fruit basket. (NB, "Drop" spots are sensitive on the upper left.)

PAST PERFECT

SIMPLE PAST

NO!!!

YES!!!

PRESENT PERFECT

"MERE FACT" CLOSED TIME



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N.B., All images are Clipart from the Microsoft Word program used to create this file.

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