

Unit 2

The past

Grammar
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2.1 The past

Stop & check

You are talking to a visitor to your country. Tick the correct sentences and correct the errors.

- 1 When did you arrive in this country?
- 2 What have you done yesterday?
- 3 Did you go to that concert last week?
- 4 How long have you been here?
- 5 Have you been to many other countries?
- 6 I was used to live in a different city.
- 7 We have moved to this city when I was nine.
- 8 I supported this football team since I was a child.
- 9 I've always been enjoying football.
- 10 Before this trip, I hadn't heard of your town.



Use	Example
Use the past simple to talk about - a specific time in the past and say exactly when something happened - a specific time in the past but not say exactly when, because that is understood and has been established by what was previously said - something that happened for a period of time in the past but is not happening in the present	<i>I arrived at 2.</i> <i>'What did you do last night?' – 'I met some friends and we went to see a film.'</i> <i>I lived there for three years.</i>
Use used to + infinitive to talk about something that happened or was true for a period of time in the past, but does not happen or is not true now	<i>People used to think the world was flat.</i>
Use the past continuous to talk about - something that continued for a period in the past - two things that happened in the past; one of them happened for a period of time (past continuous), the other happened during that period of time (past simple) - use <i>while</i> or <i>when</i> before the past continuous and <i>when</i> before the past simple	<i>My tooth was hurting all day yesterday.</i> <i>They were waiting for me, so I called to say I would be late.</i> <i>While / When I was walking to the shop, I met a friend.</i> <i>I was walking to the shop when I met a friend.</i>
Use the present perfect to talk about - something that happened in the past without saying when it happened, because you don't know when or because it is not important when - something that happened at an unspecified time in the past and has a result now - something that has happened very recently - use <i>gone</i> if the subject is still at the place mentioned; use <i>been</i> if they have now returned	<i>Helen has travelled all over the world.</i> <i>I've lost my keys. (= I haven't got them now)</i> <i>They've just scored a goal. Hurray!</i> <i>My dad's gone to work – he won't be back until 6pm.</i> <i>Her cousin's been to China – she brought back some really unusual things.</i>

Compare

used to and the past simple

- the length of the period of time is not stated with *used to*
I used to live there.
- if you say how long the period of time was, use the past simple
I lived there for ten years.

the present perfect simple and the past simple

- the time is not stated with the present perfect simple
I've seen this film.
- if you say when something happened, use the past simple
I saw this film when I was on holiday last year.

→ ExA+B p16

Use	Example
Use the present perfect continuous to talk about - something that started in the past, continued for a period and is still happening now <i>for</i> and <i>since</i> are used with this meaning, <i>for</i> before the period of time and <i>since</i> before the point in time when it started - something that happens repeatedly during a period starting in the past and continuing until now; <i>lately</i> and <i>recently</i> are often used with this meaning - note: If the verb refers to a continuing state or situation rather than an action, the present perfect simple can also be used. - note: With negative verbs, the present perfect simple (NOT the present perfect continuous) is usually used with <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>.	<i>They've been learning English for three years.</i> <i>I've been feeling ill since I got up this morning.</i> <i>She's been having a lot of problems lately.</i> <i>I've been reading some interesting books recently.</i> <i>I've lived / I've been living here for three years.</i> <i>I haven't read a newspaper since Monday.</i> <i>She hasn't phoned me for weeks.</i>
Use the past perfect simple to talk about - two things that happened in the past which are connected in some way. One thing happened before the other. - use the past perfect for what happened before and the past simple for what happened after that	<i>She got promoted because she'd done a lot of good work.</i> <i>I hadn't met her before so I didn't know who she was.</i>
Use the past perfect continuous to talk about - something that happened for a period of time in the past before something else in the past happened <i>for</i> and <i>since</i> can be used	<i>I was tired when I got home because I'd been working hard (for hours) since early in the morning.</i>

Compare

the past perfect continuous and the past continuous

- with the past continuous, a period of time is not mentioned
- if the period of time is mentioned, use the past perfect continuous
I was waiting when they arrived. I had been waiting for half an hour when they arrived.

Verbs that have no continuous form

Many verbs which are connected with the idea of thinking or having a feeling are not usually used in continuous tenses, for example:

like want hate mind prefer care need know understand realize

It is not correct to say *I've been knowing her for years*. Instead say *I've known her for years*.

- note: The continuous form of *be* is only used to talk about someone's temporary behaviour.
I told him that he was being stupid (at that moment, not that he was a stupid person).

→ ExC p17

A Read this text and underline the correct word for 1–15.

Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong, who 1 was / has been born in 1900 and 2 had died / died in 1971, was a very famous jazz musician and bandleader. He 3 used to be / had known as 'Satchmo', and this nickname 4 was staying / stayed with him all his life. As a child in New Orleans, he learned to play the trumpet while he 5 was living / lived in a special home for children who 6 had got / have got into trouble with the police. When he 7 used to finish / had finished his stay in the home, he joined various bands and then he 8 formed / used to form his own. Between 1925 and 1928 he 9 made / was making about sixty records as the leader of two small groups called the *Hot Fives* and the *Hot Sevens*. These records 10 were making / made him one of the first solo stars in the history of popular music. When he died, he 11 had been making / was making records and he 12 was touring / had been touring all over the world for more than forty years, and he 13 was / was being just as popular as he 14 had been / has been before. He even 15 was having / had a number one pop record – *What A Wonderful World* – in the 1960s.

B Complete this text by forming the correct tenses of the verbs in brackets.

Manchester United

MANCHESTER UNITED is a football club that these days 1 (become) one of the most well-known in the world. It 2 (start) in 1902 and it 3 (win) the FA Cup, a famous competition in English football, more times than any other club. In 1958, many of its players 4 (die) when their plane crashed in Germany. Ten years later, the club 5 (win) the European Cup, with famous players like George Best and Bobby Charlton. In the early 1990s, the club 6 (become) a public company, with shares on the Stock Exchange. Since then, it 7 (start) its own TV channel and it 8 (become) even more famous world-wide, with all kinds of publicity and many different kinds of goods related to the club. In 1999, the team

9 (win) the European Champions League. They 10 (lose) the match against Bayern Munich 1–0 but right at the end of the match they 11 (score) two goals. The club has millions of supporters both in Britain and abroad – although many of them 12 (never go) to Manchester in their lives!

