Past Simple is used for:	Past Continuous is used for:	Past Perfect is used for:	Past Perfect Continuous is used:
• **past actions that took place immediately one after the other.** *He **got in** the car, **started** the engine and **drove** off.*	• **an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past. We do not know when the action started or finished.** *At 1 o'clock this afternoon they **were having** coffee.*	• **an action which happened before another past action or before a stated time in the past.** *She **had** already **cooked** dinner when her husband came home.* (She cooked dinner first and then her husband came.)	• **for an action of certain duration continuing up to a specific time in the past.** *She **had been trying** to get a visa for months before she gave up.*
• **past habits or states which are now finished. In such cases, we can also use the expression *used to*.** *When he was young, he **rode/used to ride** his bike to school.*	• **a past action which was in progress when another action interrupted it.** *I **was playing** football when I broke my ankle.* (The action in progress – *was playing* (Past Continucus) – was interrupted by another action – *broke*. Past Simple)	• **an action which finished in the past and whose result was visible in the past.** *When I saw Steve yesterday he was happy because he **had found** a new job.*	• **for a past action which lasted for some time in the past and whose result was visible in the past.** *Her fingers ached because she **had been playing** the guitar all day.*
• **a complete action or event which happened at a stated time in the past.** *She **passed** her exam **last week**.* (When? "Last week" – stated time in the past)	• **two or more actions which were happening at the same time in the past (simultaneous actions).** *He **was cooking** while she **was sleeping**.*	• **The Past Perfect is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect.** *There was no pudding left; he **had eaten** it all.* (Present perfect: There's no pudding left; he has eaten it all.)	• **The Past Perfect Continuous is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect Continuous.** *He stayed in bed that day because he **had been feeling** ill all week.* (Present perfect: He's staying in bed today because he's been feeling ill all week.)
• **complete past actions not connected to the present with a stated or implied time reference** *Elvis Presley **made** lots of records.* (Elvis is dead; he won't record any more – period of time now finished – implied time reference)	• **background description to events in a story/description.** *They **were travelling** to Swansea ...*		

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 sucessive owners _____ their homes.

2 Lawns _____ parking spaces while adventurous gardeners _____ with rocks and olive trees or palm trees.

3 The children who _____ a fairly unenthusiastic game of football therefore _____ to take themselves off.

4 The woman at number 20 _____ no doubt mindful of a crime prevention circular she _____ very recently.

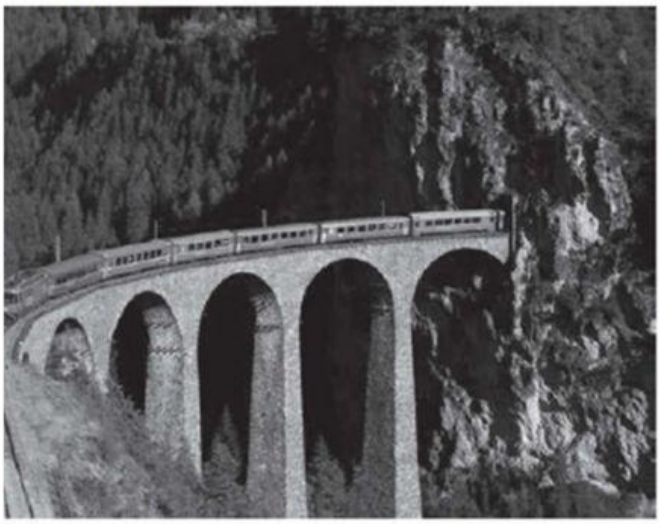
5 Someone _____ the door on a locked cupboard in the study and the police _____ the contents scattered on the floor.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS