

- **Past time: past simple, past continuous, past perfect simple, past perfect continuous, would, used to / be/get used to**

### Past simple

<b>Form</b>	<b>statement:</b> I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>played</b> ... <b>negative:</b> I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>didn't play</b> ... <b>question:</b> <b>Did</b> I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>play</b> ... ?	<b>Note:</b> Irregular verbs do not take 'ed' in the past simple. Learn the past simple form of irregular verbs. See page 194.
<b>Use</b>		<b>Example</b>
Single completed actions		<i>Tom and I played a game of chess and he won.</i>
Habits in the past		<i>Did you collect stamps when you were younger?</i>
Permanent situations in the past		<i>A famous footballer lived in our house before we bought it.</i>
General truths and facts about the past		<i>Crosswords didn't become popular until the 1930s.</i>
The main events in a story		<i>The referee blew the whistle and Simon passed the ball to James, who ran towards the goal.</i>

#### Watch out!

- We can also use **did** in past simple statements for emphasis.
- ✓ 'Why didn't you win your match yesterday?' 'I **did** win. Who told you I didn't?'
- ✓ We lost 5-0 but at least we **did** get into the final.

### Past continuous

<b>Form</b>	<b>statement:</b> I/he/she/it <b>was playing</b> ... <b>negative:</b> I/he/she/it <b>wasn't playing</b> ... <b>question:</b> <b>Was</b> I/he/she/it <b>playing</b> ... ?	<b>You/we/they were playing</b> ... <b>You/we/they weren't playing</b> ... <b>Were you/we/they playing</b> ... ?
<b>Use</b>		<b>Example</b>
Actions happening at a particular moment in the past		<i>At five o'clock, I was reading my new book.</i>
Temporary situations in the past		<i>Greg was living in London at the time.</i>
Annoying past habits (usually with <i>always</i> )		<i>When we were young, my brother was always borrowing my toys.</i>
Actions in progress over a period of time		<i>Daniel was playing video games all morning yesterday.</i>
Two actions in progress at the same time		<i>Were Ulla and her friends playing Monopoly while we were playing Draughts?</i>
Background information in a story		<i>The sun was shining and the birds were singing. Lisa opened the window and looked out.</i>

#### Watch out!

- When one action in the past interrupts another action in progress, we use the past simple and the past continuous together.
- ✓ *I was playing on my computer when it suddenly crashed.*
- We do **not** use the past continuous for regular or repeated actions in the past.
- ✓ *When we were on holiday, we played volleyball every day.*
- ✗ *When we were on holiday, we were playing volleyball every day.*
- We do not usually use stative verbs in continuous tenses. See Unit 1, page 7.

### Past perfect simple

<b>Form</b>	had + past participle
<b>Use</b>	
Situations and states before the past	<i>We'd lived next to the gym for a couple of months before I decided to join.</i>
Completed actions before a moment in the past	<i>I'd already bought the computer game when I saw it was cheaper in another shop.</i>
Completed actions where the important thing is the result at a moment in the past	<i>We didn't feel like playing Scrabble because we had just finished a long game of Monopoly.</i>



- There is often little or no difference in meaning between the past perfect simple and the past simple.  
 ✓ *We'd lived* next to the gym for a couple of months before I decided to join.  
 ✓ *We lived* next to the gym for a couple of months before I decided to join.
- After we have used the past perfect simple once, we often then use the past simple instead of continuing to use the past perfect. *I had already had* one flying lesson, which **was** great fun, and I **knew** immediately that I **wanted** to get my pilot's licence.
- Phrases such as *It was the first/second/etc time ...* are followed by the past perfect simple.  
 ✓ *It was the second time I'd been* on a plane.

## Past perfect continuous

<b>Form</b>	statement: I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>had been playing</b> ... negative: I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>hadn't been playing</b> ... question: <b>Had</b> I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>been playing</b> ...?
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Use	Example
Actions continuing up to a moment in the past	<i>When you saw us, we <b>had been running</b> for six miles – and we still <b>had</b> a mile to go!</i>
Actions stopping just before a moment in the past	<i>Sarah looked tired because she <b>had been exercising</b> all morning.</i>

## would

<b>Form</b>	would + bare infinitive
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Use	Example
Past habits, particularly for the distant past	<i>When I was very young, my grandfather <b>would</b> take me to the park to play.</i>



- We don't often use *would* in questions or negative statements with this meaning. In negative statements, we can use *would never*.  
 ✓ *We **would never** play games together as a family when I was growing up.*

## used to

<b>Form</b>	used to + bare infinitive
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statement:	I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>used to</b> train three times a week.
negative:	I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>didn't use to</b> be good at football. I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>never used to</b> be so good at football. I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>used not to</b> be good at football.
question:	<b>Did</b> I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>use to</b> play hockey here?

Use	Example
Past habits and states, particularly for the distant past	<i>My mother <b>used to</b> play a lot of squash before I was born.</i>



- To talk about a past state, we can use *used to*, but **not** *would*.  
 ✓ *We **used to** have a house that was right next to the park.*  
 ✗ *-We **would** have a house that was right next to the park.*

## be/get used to

<b>Form</b>	be/get used to + -ing form / noun
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Use	Example
A situation that is familiar or no longer strange	<i>I didn't like <b>being</b> the goalkeeper at first but now I'm <b>used to</b> it.</i>



- When we want to talk about the process of becoming familiar with something, we use *get used to*.  
 ✓ *I'm gradually **getting used to** being in a new team.*

**A** Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 I **saw** / **was seeing** Maria for the first time at Ray's birthday party.
- 2 Richard **watched** / **was watching** TV when the phone rang.
- 3 When we were on holiday, we **went** / **were going** to the café almost every day.
- 4 Denise **practised** / **was practising** the song every day until she could sing it perfectly.
- 5 The phone was engaged when I called. Who **did you talk** / **were you talking** to?
- 6 Mr Connors **owned** / **was owning** two houses and a villa in the south of France.
- 7 I **did** / **was doing** my homework as soon as I got home from school.
- 8 A car came round the corner and I **jumped** / **was jumping** out of the way.
- 9 When my dad met my mum, he **worked** / **was working** as a bus driver.
- 10 I **got** / **was getting** up at six o'clock every morning last week!
- 11 My cousin and I **played** / **were playing** on the computer when there was a power cut.
- 12 No, that's not right. I **did pass** / **was passing** the test. I got a B.

**B** Complete using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 Where ..... (**you** / **go**) when I saw you on the bus last night?
- 2 ..... (**you** / **enjoy**) the film?
- 3 When we shared a room, Zoë ..... (**always** / **take**) my things. It was so annoying!
- 4 When I went to get the tickets, I realised I ..... (**not** / **have**) any money.
- 5 When I was young, we ..... (**go**) to France every year on holiday.
- 6 Elvis ..... (**become**) famous for the song *Blue Suede Shoes*.
- 7 When you rang last night, I ..... (**work**) in the garden so I didn't hear the phone.
- 8 I ..... (**hear**) from Davina last night. She says hello.
- 9 The old man ..... (**appear**) to be very tired and he slowly sat down.
- 10 We ..... (**throw**) a surprise party for my brother last Saturday.

**C** Circle the correct word or phrase.

Dear Lisa,

Thanks for your letter. I (1) **just left** / **had just left** for school when I saw the postman and he (2) **gave** / **had given** it to me. It was really funny! I (3) **read** / **had read** it during maths and it (4) **made** / **had made** me laugh. I almost (5) **got** / **had got** in trouble!

Anyway, I'm excited because I (6) **had** / **had had** my first judo lesson yesterday. I (7) **was** / **had been** late for the lesson because when I (8) **got** / **had got** there, I suddenly realised I (9) **left** / **had left** my judo suit at home! So I (10) **went** / **had gone** all the way home and when I (11) **got** / **had got** back, the lesson (12) **already began** / **had already begun**.

The instructor was really nice, though, and I (13) **learned** / **had learned** how to do some basic throws. Can't wait till next time!

What about you and your taekwondo? The last time I (14) **spoke** / **had spoken** to you, you (15) **talked** / **had talked** about giving it up. What (16) **did you decide** / **had you decided**? I think that's all for now. My mum and I are going shopping shortly, so I'd better post this. Speak to you soon.

Love,  
Charlotte

**D** Complete using the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous of the verbs in the box. You may need to use a negative form.

**eat • stay • wait • know • write • see • listen • get • have • run**

- 1 By the time he died, Beethoven ..... nine symphonies.
- 2 We chose the Hotel Rio because we ..... there before.
- 3 We ..... for over an hour when the train finally arrived.
- 4 I was completely out of breath because I .....
- 5 I ..... the film before, so I knew how it ended.
- 6 When he got married, I ..... Chris for about two years.
- 7 Johnson ..... ready for the race for six months and finally the big moment came.
- 8 Vivian ..... computer lessons for very long so she wasn't sure how to use the Internet.
- 9 Holly ..... oysters before, so she wasn't sure what to do with them.
- 10 I ..... to my new CD for a few minutes when the CD player started making a funny noise.

**E** Choose the correct answer.

- 1 My brother and I ..... swimming almost every day last summer.  
A went  
B had been going  
C were going  
D had gone
- 2 We ..... when someone knocked at the door.  
A talked  
B had talked  
C were talking  
D were talked
- 3 When the robbery happened, the security guard ..... !  
A slept  
B was sleeping  
C had slept  
D was slept
- 4 Jack ..... chess before so I showed him what to do.  
A hadn't been playing  
B didn't play  
C wasn't playing  
D hadn't played
- 5 I wasn't sure how Belinda would react because I ..... her long.  
A didn't know  
B wasn't knowing  
C hadn't been knowing  
D hadn't known
- 6 Ian ..... at the factory long when he was made a manager.  
A hadn't been working  
B wasn't working  
C didn't work  
D wasn't worked
- 7 I wanted to say goodbye to Jerry, but he ..... .  
A was already left  
B already left  
C had already been leaving  
D had already left
- 8 When we got to the airport, I realised I ..... my passport at home!  
A was left  
B had left  
C left  
D had been leaving