

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

Past simple

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

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

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

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

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

Watch out!

- 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

Form statement: I/you/he/she/it/we/they **had been playing ...**
 negative: I/you/he/she/it/we/they **hadn't been playing ...**
 question: **Had** I/you/he/she/it/we/they **been playing ...?**

Use	Example
Actions continuing up to a moment in the past	When you saw us, we had been running for six miles – and we still had a mile to go!
Actions stopping just before a moment in the past	Sarah looked tired because she had been exercising all morning.

would

Form would + bare infinitive

Use	Example
Past habits, particularly for the distant past	When I was very young, my grandfather would take me to the park to play.

Watch out!

- 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

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

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

Watch out!

- 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.
 - X We ~~would~~ have a house that was right next to the park.

be/get used to

Form be/get used to + -ing form / noun

Use	Example
A situation that is familiar or no longer strange	I didn't like being the goalkeeper at first but now I'm used to it.

Watch out!

- 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.

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
|--|--|