

A. Read the short story and choose the correct forms of the verbs.

First Time Buyers

Last year, my wife and I (1) *bought / were buying* our first house. We (2) *had already been living / were already living* together for five years by the time we bought our house, so we (3) *knew / were knowing* how to live together. I'll never forget the first house we (4) *looked / had looked* at. It (5) *was / had been* a small house in a quiet town with small



windows. While we (6) *were walking / had walked* around the house, I (7) *noticed / was noticing* how cold and dark it (8) *was / had been*. I (9) *was always living / had always lived* in a house with a lot of light and big windows, so I immediately (10) *hated / was hating* it. We (11) *saw / were seeing* a few more houses after that which were all quite nice. We (12) *ended / had ended* up buying the second house that we (13) *visited / were visiting*. We (14) *had been seeing / had seen* it twice before we (15) *bought / had bought* it, just to be sure. I (16) *had been dreaming / was dreaming* of this day for a long time. By the time we signed the contract, we (17) *had already spoken / were already speaking* to a lawyer. We (18) *had been saving / were saving* for years before we finally signed the contract, so we could afford the deposit. Now, we have moved in. I'm really happy.

B. Match the narrative tenses from the box to their descriptions.

past simple	past continuous	past perfect	past perfect continuous
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- is used to describe a finished action or event in the past.
- is used for an action that took place before another action or event in the past.
- is used for an action in the past that was in progress before another past action or event.
- is used to describe an action or event in progress at a specific time in the past.

C. Use the prompts to create sentences using the four narrative tenses.

1. I / play football for years / before / I break my leg

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2. While / I / do my homework / my sister call me

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3. She / take a cooking lesson only once / before / she cook for me

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4. I / buy a new laptop / after / I use my old one for years

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5. The hairdresser / already cut the girl's hair / before / she / change her mind

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6. By the time my guests arrive / I already start eating

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D. Complete the first part of the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Then continue the story using your own ideas. Use at least one example of each tense: past simple, past continuous, past perfect, and past perfect continuous.

Last summer, my cousin and I (1) (decide) to go on a road trip across America. We (2) (plan) the journey for months when the day to leave finally arrived. We (3)



..... (never be) to America before, so we (4) (be) both really excited about the trip ahead. We (5) (rent) a car from the airport and (6) (drive) it out onto the highway. After a few hours of driving, we (7) (stop) at a gas station. While we (8) (stand) outside the gas station, a large black truck pulled up next to us.

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