

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

### Past simple

<b>Form</b>	statement: I/You/He/She/It/We/They <b>played</b> ...	Note: Irregular verbs do not take 'ed' in the past simple. Learn the past simple form of irregular verbs. See page 194.
	negative: I/You/He/She/It/We/They <b>didn't play</b> ...	
	question: <b>Did</b> I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>play</b> ...?	

Use	Example
Single completed actions	Tom and I <b>played</b> a game of chess and he <b>won</b> .
Habits in the past	<b>Did</b> you <b>collect</b> stamps when you were younger?
Permanent situations in the past	A famous footballer <b>lived</b> in our house before we bought it.
General truths and facts about the past	Crosswords <b>didn't become</b> popular until the 1930s.
The main events in a story	The referee <b>blew</b> the whistle and Simon <b>passed</b> the ball to James, who <b>ran</b> 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

<b>Form</b>	statement: I/He/She/It <b>was playing</b> ...	You/We/They <b>were playing</b> ...
	negative: I/He/She/It <b>wasn't playing</b> ...	You/We/They <b>weren't playing</b> ...
	question: <b>Was</b> I/he/she/it <b>playing</b> ...?	<b>Were</b> you/we/they <b>playing</b> ...?

Use	Example
Actions happening at a particular moment in the past	At five o'clock, I <b>was reading</b> my new book.
Temporary situations in the past	Greg <b>was living</b> in London at the time.
Annoying past habits (usually with <i>always</i> )	When we were young, my brother <b>was always borrowing</b> my toys.
Actions in progress over a period of time	Daniel <b>was playing</b> video games all morning yesterday.
Two actions in progress at the same time	<b>Were</b> Ulla and her friends <b>playing</b> Monopoly while we <b>were playing</b> draughts?
Background information in a story	The sun <b>was shining</b> and the birds <b>were singing</b> . 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

<b>Form</b>	<i>had</i> + past participle
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Use	Example
Situations and states before the past	We'd <b>lived</b> next to the gym for a couple of months before I decided to join.
Completed actions before a moment in the past	I'd <b>already bought</b> 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 <b>had just finished</b> 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 <b>had been running</b> 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 <b>had been exercising</b> all morning.

## would

**Form** would + bare infinitive

Use	Example
Past habits, particularly for the distant past	When I was very young, my grandfather <b>would</b> 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 <b>used to</b> 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.
  - ✗ 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 <b>used to</b> 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.