

## PAST TENSES

### Past simple

- complete action

Ann **watched** TV a lot when she was ill last year.

Tom **burnt** his hand a week ago.

We also use the past simple to say that one thing happened AFTER another.

I was walking along the road when I **saw** Dave. So I **stopped** and we **had** a chat.

### Past continuous

We use the past continuous to say that someone was in the middle of doing something at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this time but had not finished.

Be careful, stative verbs do not take the ing form.

This time last year I **was living** in Brazil.

What **were** you **doing** yesterday at ten?

I waved to her but she **wasn't looking**.

Compare:

I **was walking** home when I met Dave. (= in the middle of walking home)

I **walked** home after the party last night. (= all the way, completely)

### Present perfect

When we use the present perfect there is always a connection with NOW. The action in the past has a result now. Often used with giving new information or announce a recent event.

Where's your key? I don't know I've **lost** it.

Ow! I've **cut** my finger!

The road is closed. There's **been** an accident.

Often used with JUST, ALREADY and YET.

**Have** you just **arrived**? (a short time ago)

What time **is** Mark **leaving**? He's already gone. (something happened sooner than expected)

**Has** it **stopped** raining yet? (until now, for questions and negative sentences)

FOR, SINCE

I **have lived** in Brno since I was ten.

I **have lived** in Brno for five years. (= I still live in Brno)

I lived in Brno for five years. (= I no longer live there)

other expressions with the present perfect: recently, still, in the last few days, it's the first time...

So called **experience** tense:

**Have** you ever **done** bungee jumping? (meaning in your life)

I've never **seen** such a good performance.

It's the first time he **has driven** a car.

BUT My grandpa never smoked. (meaning he passed away)

Present perfect continuous

What **have** you **been doing**?

You seem out of breath. **Have** you **been running**? (a present result)

### Past perfect

Sarah arrived at the party (the starting point). When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home. (that happened before this time)

Jane didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she **had** already **seen** the film.

The man on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.

Compare:

Was Tom at the party when you arrived? No, he **had** already **gone** home.

Was Tom there when you arrived? Yes, he **went** home soon afterwards.

Ann wasn't at home when I phoned. She **was** in London.

Ann had just got home when I phoned. She **had been** in London.

Past perfect continuous

I was tired yesterday as I **had been working** all day.

### Past habits

I **used to** smoke when I was younger. (= I don't do it any more)

It can be replaced by WOULD if it is a dynamic verb.

My grandpa **would sit** in his favourite armchair every afternoon.

Be careful: I **am getting used to getting** up early. (= it is a process for me)

I **am used to** hard work/working hard. (= I don't find it strange)