

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)

Sometimes it helps to consider “vid dokonavý a nedokonavý” in Czech.

Compare:

She **was eating** her dinner when the phone rang. (Jedla...)

She **ate** her dinner and washed the dishes. (Dojedla...)

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 announcing a recent event.

Where's your key? I don't know I've **lost** it. (Now it is lost.)

Ow! I've **cut** my finger! (Now it is bleeding.)

The road is closed. There's **been** an accident. (The cars are still there.)

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 still live in Brno)

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...*

It can also be used as a 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

1 ongoing actions, emphasis on the duration of the action (similar to all continuous tenses)
We **have been supplying** our products to this company for a decade now. (We still supply them.)

How long **has she been studying** medicine? (She is still studying it.)

2 actions that have just finished

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

Both uses are possible with the same verb. It is clear from context whether the action is still happening or not.

The roads are wet. It **has been raining**. (a present result, the action is not happening) X It **has been raining** for two hours now. (It is still raining.)

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.

In Czech we use "už" to show what event happened first.

Paul už šel domů. šel domů.

Jane ten film už viděla.

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.

Get used to + ing

I **am getting used to** exercising early. (= it is a process for me, Zvykám si...)

I **get used to** exercising.

I **got used to** exercising.

I **will get used to** exercising.

To be used to + ing (or a noun)

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