

Past perfect continuous (I had been doing)

A Study this example situation:

yesterday morning



Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window. The sun was shining, but the ground was very wet.

It **had been raining**.

It was *not* raining when I looked out of the window. The sun was shining. But it **had been raining** before.

had been -ing is the *past perfect continuous*:

I/we/you/they
he/she/it

had

 (= I'd etc.)
 (= he'd etc.)

been

 doing
 working
 playing etc.

Some more examples:

- ☐ My hands were dirty because I'd **been repairing** my bike.
- ☐ Tom was tired when he got home. He'd **been working** hard all day.
- ☐ I went to Madrid a few years ago and stayed with a friend of mine. **She hadn't been living** there very long, but she knew the city very well.

You can say that something **had been happening** before something else happened:

- ☐ We'd **been playing** tennis for about half an hour when it **started** to rain heavily.

B Compare **have been -ing** (*present perfect continuous*) and **had been -ing** (*past perfect continuous*):

Present perfect continuous



- ☐ I hope the bus comes soon. I've **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before now*)
- ☐ James **is** out of breath. He's **been running**. (= he **has** been ...)

Past perfect continuous



- ☐ At last the bus came. I'd **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before the bus came*)
- ☐ James **was** out of breath. He'd **been running**. (= he **had** been ...)

C Compare **was -ing** (*past continuous*) and **had been -ing**:

- ☐ It **wasn't raining** when we went out. The sun **was shining**. But it **had been raining**, so the ground was wet.
- ☐ Katherine **was lying** on the sofa. She was tired because she'd **been working** hard.

D Some verbs (for example, **know**) are not normally used in *continuous* forms (**be + -ing**):

- ☐ We were good friends. We **had known** each other for years. (*not had been knowing*)
- ☐ A few years ago Lisa cut her hair really short. I was surprised because she'd always **had** long hair. (*not she'd been having*)

For a list of these verbs, see **Unit 4A**. For **have**, see **Unit 17**

have and have got

A have and have got (= for possession, relationships, illnesses, appointments etc.)

You can use **have** or **have got**. There is no difference in meaning. You can say:

- ☐ They **have** a new car. or They **'ve got** a new car.
- ☐ Lisa **has** two brothers. or Lisa **has got** two brothers.
- ☐ I **have** a headache. or I **'ve got** a headache.
- ☐ Our house **has** a small garden. or Our house **has got** a small garden.
- ☐ He **has** a few problems. or He **'s got** a few problems.
- ☐ I **have** a driving lesson tomorrow. or I **'ve got** a driving lesson tomorrow.

With these meanings (possession etc.), we do not use continuous forms (**I'm having** etc.):

- ☐ We're enjoying our holiday. We **have** / We **'ve got** a nice room in the hotel.
(not We're having a nice room)

For the past we use **had** (usually without **got**):

- ☐ Lisa **had** long hair when she was a child. (not Lisa had got)

B In questions and negative sentences there are three possible forms:

Do you have any questions?	I don't have any questions.
or Have you got any questions?	or I haven't got any questions.
or Have you any questions? (<i>less usual</i>)	or I haven't any questions. (<i>less usual</i>)
Does she have a car?	She doesn't have a car.
or Has she got a car?	or She hasn't got a car.
or Has she a car? (<i>less usual</i>)	or She hasn't a car. (<i>less usual</i>)

In past questions and negative sentences, we use **did/didn't**:

- ☐ **Did you have** a car when you were living in Paris?
- ☐ I **didn't have** my phone, so I couldn't call you.
- ☐ Lisa **had** long hair, **didn't** she?

C have breakfast / have a shower / have a good time etc.

We also use **have** (*but not have got*) for things we do or experience. For example:

have	breakfast / dinner / a cup of coffee / something to eat etc. a bath / a shower / a swim / a break / a rest / a party / a holiday an accident / an experience / a dream a look (at something) a chat / a discussion / a conversation (with somebody) trouble / difficulty / fun / a good time etc. a baby (= give birth to a baby)
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Have got is *not* possible in these expressions. Compare:

- ☐ Sometimes I **have** (= eat) a sandwich for my lunch. (*not I've got*)
- but I **'ve got** / I **have** some sandwiches. Would you like one?

You can use continuous forms (**I'm having** etc.) with these expressions:

- ☐ We're enjoying our holiday. We **'re having** a great time.
- ☐ 'Where's Mark?' 'He **'s having** a shower.'

In questions and negative sentences we use **do/does/did**:

- ☐ I **don't** usually **have** a big breakfast. (*not I usually haven't*)
- ☐ Where **does** Chris usually **have** lunch?
- ☐ **Did you have** trouble finding somewhere to stay? (*not Had you*)

used to (do)

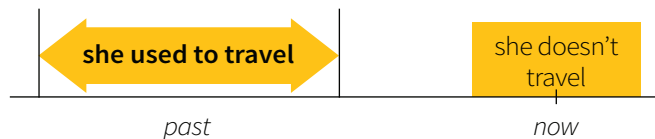
A Study this example situation:

a few years ago*these days*

Nicola doesn't travel much these days.
She prefers to stay at home.

But she **used to travel** a lot.
She **used to go** away two or three times a year.

She **used to travel** a lot = she travelled often in the past, but she doesn't do this any more.

B I **used to** do something = I did it often in the past, but not any more:

- ☐ I **used to play** tennis a lot, but I don't play very much now.
- ☐ David **used to spend** a lot of money on clothes. These days he can't afford it.
- ☐ 'Do you go to the cinema much?' 'Not now, but I **used to**.' (= I used to go)

We also use **used to** ... for things that were true, but are not true any more:

- ☐ This building is now a furniture shop. It **used to be** a cinema.
- ☐ I **used to think** Mark was unfriendly, but now I realise he's a very nice person.
- ☐ I've started drinking coffee recently. I never **used to like** it before.
- ☐ Lisa **used to have** very long hair when she was a child.

C 'I **used to** do something' is past. There is no present. You cannot say 'I use to do'. To talk about the present, we use the present simple (I **do**).

Compare:

<i>past</i>	he used to play	we used to live	there used to be
<i>present</i>	he plays	we live	there is

- ☐ We **used to live** in a small village, but now we **live** in a city.
- ☐ There **used to be** four cinemas in the town. Now there **is** only one.

D The normal question form is **did** (you) **use to** ... ? :

- ☐ **Did you use to eat** a lot of sweets when you were a child? (= did you do this often?)

The negative form is **didn't use to** ... (**used not to** ... is also possible):

- ☐ I **didn't use to like** him. (or I **used not to like** him.)

E Compare I **used to do** and I **was doing**:

- ☐ I **used to watch** TV a lot. (= I watched TV often in the past, but I don't do this any more)
- ☐ I **was watching** TV when Rob called. (= I was in the middle of watching TV)

F Do not confuse I **used to do** and I **am used to doing** (see Unit 61). The structures and meanings are different:

- ☐ I **used to live** alone. (= I lived alone in the past, but I no longer live alone.)
- ☐ I **am used to living** alone. (= I live alone, and it's not a problem for me because I've lived alone for some time.)

Present tenses (**I am doing / I do**) for the future**A** Present continuous (**I am doing**) with a future meaning

This is Ben's diary for next week.

He **is playing** tennis on Monday afternoon.

He **is going** to the dentist on Tuesday morning.

He **is meeting** Kate on Friday.

In all these examples, Ben has already decided and arranged to do these things.

I'm doing something (tomorrow etc.) = I have already decided and arranged to do it:

- ☐ A: What **are** you **doing** on Saturday evening? (*not* What do you do)
- ☐ B: I'**m going** to the cinema. (*not* I go)
- ☐ A: What time **is** Katherine **arriving** tomorrow?
- ☐ B: Half past ten. We'**re meeting** her at the station.
- ☐ I'**m not working** tomorrow, so we can go out somewhere.
- ☐ Steve **isn't playing** football next Saturday. He's hurt his leg.

We do not normally use **will** to talk about what we have arranged to do:

- ☐ What **are** you **doing** tonight? (*not* What will you do)
- ☐ Alex **is getting** married next month. (*not* will get)

We also use the present continuous for an action *just before you start to do it*. This happens especially with verbs of movement (**go/come/leave** etc.):

- ☐ I'm tired. I'**m going** to bed now. Goodnight. (*not* I go to bed now)
- ☐ 'Tina, are you ready yet?' 'Yes, I'**m coming**.' (*not* I come)

B Present simple (**I do**) with a future meaning

We use the present simple when we talk about timetables and programmes (for example, transport or cinema times):

- ☐ I have to go. My train **leaves** at 11.30.
- ☐ What time **does** the film **start** tonight?
- ☐ The meeting **is** at nine o'clock tomorrow.

You can use the present simple to talk about people if their plans are fixed like a timetable:

- ☐ I **start** my new job on Monday.
- ☐ What time **do** you **finish** work tomorrow?

But the continuous is more usual for other personal arrangements:

- ☐ What time **are** you **meeting** Kate tomorrow? (*not* do you meet)

Compare:

Present continuous

- ☐ What time **are** you **arriving**?
- ☐ I'**m going** to the cinema this evening.

Present simple

- ☐ What time **does** the train **arrive**?
- ☐ The film **starts** at 8.15.

When you talk about appointments, lessons, exams etc., you can use **I have** or **I've got**:

- ☐ I **have** an exam next week. *or* I'**ve got** an exam next week.

I'm going to (do)

A

I **am going to do** something = I have already decided to do it, I intend to do it:

- ☐ 'Are you **going to eat** anything?' 'No, I'm not hungry.'
- ☐ A: I hear Sarah won the lottery. What **is** she **going to do** with the money?
B: She's **going to buy** a new car.
- ☐ I'm **just going to make** a quick phone call. Can you wait for me?
- ☐ This cheese smells horrible. I'm **not going to eat** it.

B

I **am doing** and I **am going to do**

I **am doing** = it is *already fixed or arranged*. For example, you have arranged to go somewhere or meet somebody:

- ☐ I'm **leaving** next week. I've booked my flight.
- ☐ What time **are** you **meeting** Emily this evening?

I **am going to do** something = I've decided to do it. Maybe I've arranged to do it, maybe not.

- ☐ A: Your shoes are dirty.
B: Yes, I know. I'm **going to clean** them.
(= I've *decided* to clean them, but I haven't arranged this with anybody)
- ☐ I don't want to stay here. Tomorrow I'm **going to look** for somewhere else to stay.

Compare:

- ☐ I don't know what I'm **doing** tomorrow. (= I don't know my schedule or plans)
- ☐ I don't know what I'm **going to do** about the problem. (= I haven't decided what to do)

Often the difference is small and either form is possible.



C

You can also say that 'something **is going to happen**' in the future. For example:



The man isn't looking where he is going.
He **is going to walk** into the wall.

When we say that 'something **is going to happen**', the situation *now* makes this clear.
The man is walking towards the wall now, so we can see that he **is going to walk** into it.


going to →


now
future

Some more examples:

- ☐ Look at those black clouds! It's **going to rain**. (we can see the clouds *now*)
- ☐ I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be** sick. (I feel terrible *now*)
- ☐ The economic situation is bad now and things **are going to get** worse.

D

I **was going to do** something = I intended to do it, but didn't do it:

- ☐ We **were going to travel** by train, but then we decided to drive instead.
- ☐ I **was just going to cross** the road when somebody shouted 'Stop!'

You can say that 'something **was going to happen**' (but didn't happen):

- ☐ I thought it **was going to rain**, but it didn't.