

8

tense contrasts

past simple: decided

past perfect simple: had happened

past continuous: was looking

past perfect continuous: had been working

Use past simple, past continuous and past perfect for events in a narrative (story).

- Past simple to describe actions or states in the past.
*That afternoon **he decided** to check the old experiments.*
- Past continuous to describe continuing actions, or to set the scene.
*While **he was looking** at them ...*
- Use past perfect when we need to make clear that one past action happened before another past action.
*... he noticed that something unusual **had happened**...*
*... while he **had been working** on the new experiments.*

past simple: What did you do?

*We **were** in a maths lesson. Water **started** dripping from the ceiling. We **changed** rooms.*

*What **were you doing**? (when something happened)*

*We **were writing** a test.*

*What **did you do**? (an action)*

*We **changed** rooms.*

present perfect simple and continuous: has won, has been winning

past perfect simple and continuous: had won, had been playing

- Present perfect events are connected to the present in some way. Past perfect events are past events that take place before other past events.
*She **has just won** the Grand Slam. She **has been playing** tennis for only six years.*
(She plays now – she started six years ago.)
*When Anna **won** the Grand Slam in 2001, she **had been playing** tennis for only six years.*
(All the events are in the past: she won in 2001, she started playing six years before that.)

past simple: discovered

present perfect: have discovered

- Use past simple for finished events in the past. We can use a definite date or time.
*Clyde Tombaugh **discovered** the planet Pluto **in 1930**.*
- Use present perfect for recent events without a definite time.
*Astronomers **have discovered** a new planet recently. They **have named** it Sedna.*
- We can use **since** + point in time with present perfect but not with past simple.
*I've been here **since 8.30**! (I'm still here.)*
- We can use **for** + period of time with present perfect for unfinished time, or past simple for finished time.
*I've been in the team **for two years**. (I'm still in the team.)*
*I was in the team **for two years**. (Finished – I'm not in the team now.)*

present perfect simple: have taken

present perfect continuous: have been taking

- Use present perfect simple when an action has recently finished. Use present perfect continuous to describe a continuing action up to the present moment.
***Have you taken** your medicine? (just now or very recently)*
***Have you been taking** your medicine? (over a long period up to now)*
- Present perfect continuous can suggest that the action might continue into the future.
I've done a lot of work lately. (but now I've finished)
I've been doing a lot of work lately. (and it is still going on)

present perfect simple and continuous: have lived, have been living

present simple and continuous: live, am living

- Use present perfect to describe a period of time that continues up to the present, and includes the present.
*How long **have you been living** here? (We don't say *How long are you living here?*)*
*I've been here **since 2002**. (We don't say *I am here since 2002*.)*

present simple, present continuous: have, am having

- Use present simple for facts, things that always happen, habits and state meanings.

Rabbits **live** in holes in the ground. I **travel** to work by bus.
I **enjoy** Italian food. I **have** three sisters.

- Use present continuous for events that are happening at the moment, or are changing, and for action meanings.

It's **raining**. Things **are getting** better.
I'm **really enjoying** this party. I'm **having** a great time.

1 Underline the correct form.

- a When the police stopped / were stopping Smith's car for a routine check, they realized that he was the man who robbed / had robbed the bank.
- b I woke up in the middle of the night and turned on / was turning on the light. Someone or something climbed / was climbing in my window!
- c Unfortunately Jan arrived / was arriving at the station at 3.25, and found that she missed / had missed the train.
- d The doctors tried / had been trying their best, but while they were performing the operation, the patient died / was dying.
- e We'd been watching the film for half an hour before we realized that we were making / had made a terrible mistake. We went / had gone into the wrong cinema!
- f On the morning of the accident, Mr Davis just finished / had just finished a night shift at a local factory, and didn't have / hadn't had any sleep for 24 hours.
- g I'm sorry I didn't answer / wasn't answering the phone earlier, but I was painting / had been painting the ceiling in my bedroom.
- h The office Marlowe was visiting was on the 15th floor, and unfortunately the lift wasn't working / hadn't been working, so by the time he arrived at the top of the stairs, he was / had been out of breath.
- i On Christmas morning when they woke up / were waking up, the children looked eagerly out of the window. It snowed / had been snowing, and the garden was covered in a thick white carpet.
- j After the two film stars landed / were landing at the small airport, they left quickly in a van that was waiting / had been waiting for them since the early morning.

2 Complete the sentence with the past simple or present perfect form of the verb in brackets.

- a I (leave) left my bag on the train this morning.
- b Helen (complete) completed the test half an hour before the end.
- c The match can't begin yet because the other team (not arrive) hasn't arrived.
- d We (not play) 've not played chess for ages. Do you feel like a game?
- e I (like) liked their last album, but I'm not keen on the new one.
- f When (you go) have you gone to the cinema last?
- g Sam (not take) hasn't taken a day off since last April.
- h (you see) Have you seen my wallet? I'm sure I left it here on the desk.
- i When (you realize) did you realize that you wanted to be a musician?
- j I (have) have got an idea! Why don't we go skating tomorrow?

- 3 Complete the text with the past simple, past continuous or past perfect simple form of the verbs in brackets.

Mozart was born in 1756, the son of a professional musician. His father soon **a** (give up) *gave up* **composing** when he recognized his son's musical talent. By the age of three, the young Mozart **b** (learn) _____ to play several pieces of music. While he and his father **c** (travel) _____ round Europe, Mozart met many famous musicians and **composers**. Before he was 17, he **d** (compose) _____ several **operas**. While he **e** (visit) _____ the Vatican in Rome, he **f** (listen) _____ to a piece of music which, up to this point, the Vatican authorities **g** (keep) _____ secret. No one **h** (publish) _____ a copy of the piece before, but Mozart **i** (manage) _____ to write it down from memory after he **j** (listen) _____ to it once. By the age of 30 he **k** (become) _____ one of the most famous composers in Europe, and **l** (have) _____ a large apartment in Vienna, which is now a tourist attraction. It was here that he **m** (write) _____ his famous opera *The Marriage of Figaro*. In 1791, while he **n** (work) _____ on his *Requiem*, he **o** (fall) _____ ill and died at the age of 35.

- 4 Choose the correct form, A, B, C or D, to complete the sentence.

- a I A this computer for more than ten years, so I'm thinking of getting a new one.
 b You're half an hour late! I D here for ages!
 c I C these black trousers better than those blue ones.
 d Can I borrow a pen? I A mine.
 e I'd like to dance with you, but I D for my friend.
 f Kate B in Poland since last October. She's really enjoying it.
 g Carol's great, isn't she? A her long?
 h Paul A in all day today, so now he feels like going out.
 i You'd better borrow this umbrella. D really hard.
 j I B on my project all morning, and I need a break.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| a A have had | B have been having | C have | D am having |
| b A have waited | B have been waiting | C wait | D am waiting |
| c A have liked | B have been liking | C like | D am liking |
| d A have lost | B have been losing | C lose | D am losing |
| e A have waited | B have been waiting | C wait | D am waiting |
| f A has taught | B has been teaching | C teaches | D is teaching |
| g A Have you known | B Have you been knowing | C Do you know | D Are you knowing |
| h A has stayed | B has been staying | C stays | D is staying |
| i A It has rained | B It has been raining | C It rains | D It is raining |
| j A have worked | B have been working | C work | D am working |

5 Underline the correct form.

a How **a** do you get on / are you getting on in Paris?
 Sorry **b** I haven't written / I'm not writing before
 but **c** I train / I've been training hard for my
 basketball team. We **d** played / have played in a
 tournament last week – we **e** come / came third! I
 really **f** enjoy / enjoyed taking part, but **g** I haven't
done / I wasn't doing anything else for the past
 month.

b Unfortunately, when Sarah's big day
h arrived / was arriving, things **i** have gone / went
 disastrously wrong at first. For a start, it **j** was
raining / has been raining and as the traffic was
 so heavy, she **k** arrived / was arriving nearly ten
 minutes late for her interview. Then while she
l was crossing / has crossed the road, a passing bus
m splashed / was splashing her with water.
 But inside the building her luck **n** changed
 / has changed. 'Mr Fortescue **o** is expecting /
has expected me,' she **p** was telling / told the
 receptionist.

'He **q** hasn't arrived / doesn't arrive yet,' she was
 told. 'Just take a seat.' Perhaps everything would
 be all right after all!

c An art historian **r** has discovered / is discovering
 two missing paintings by Fra Angelico (c 1395–
 1455) in the home of a pensioner from Oxford
 who **s** has died / died earlier this year. Jean
 Preston **t** bought / has bought the paintings when
 she **u** was working / has been working in America
 in the 1960s. Shortly before her death, a friend
v recognized / has recognized them as part of a
 group of six small paintings which Angelico
w painted / has painted in 1439. Miss Preston
x paid / was paying about £200 for the pair, but
 experts **y** say / said they are now worth around
 £1 million.



EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- 1 Look through the unit again and find two examples for each of these tenses: present simple, present continuous, past simple, past continuous, present perfect simple, present perfect continuous, past perfect simple, past perfect continuous.
- 2 Look at the explanation page again. Choose an example sentence from each section. Translate it into your language.

Need more practice? Go to the **Review** on page 192.