

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	<i>When you saw us, we had been running for six miles – and we still had a mile to go!</i>
Actions stopping just before a moment in the past	<i>Sarah looked tired because she had been exercising all morning.</i>

would

Form would + bare infinitive

Use	Example
Past habits, particularly for the distant past	<i>When I was very young, my grandfather would take me to the park to play.</i>

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	<i>My mother used to play a lot of squash before I was born.</i>

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.*
 - X *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>I didn't like being the goalkeeper at first but now I'm used to it.</i>

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.*