

Grammar Review: Time & Tenses

Improving Grammatical Accuracy in
most useful tenses

Class Website

- In order to have a place to put class notes and for you to download homework and articles from class, I created a class website at:

www.markwk.com/teaching/

- This site has a class list, schedule, syllabus and an area to download resources for homework and review.

Topics:

- Present Tense vs. Present Continuous
- Past Simple vs. Present Perfect (Have been)

Game: Two Truths and a Lie

Write Three Sentences:
Two True & One Lie

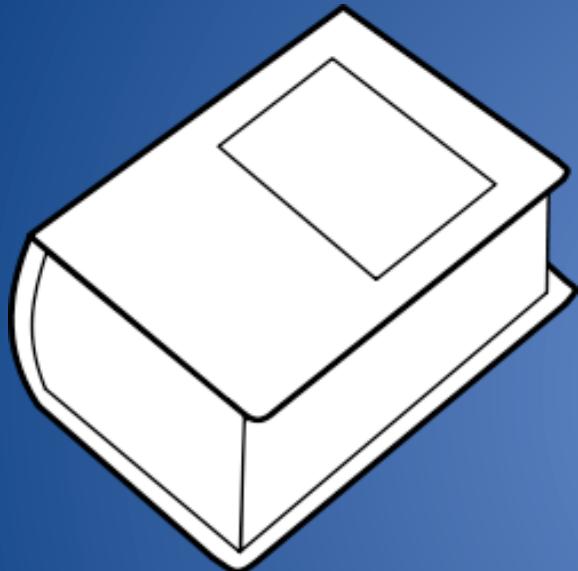
The Present Tense

USE: We use the present tense to talk about things and situations that are generally true; true now and tomorrow, etc.

EX: An iPhone costs a lot of money. They are very popular, and you can buy lots of applications.

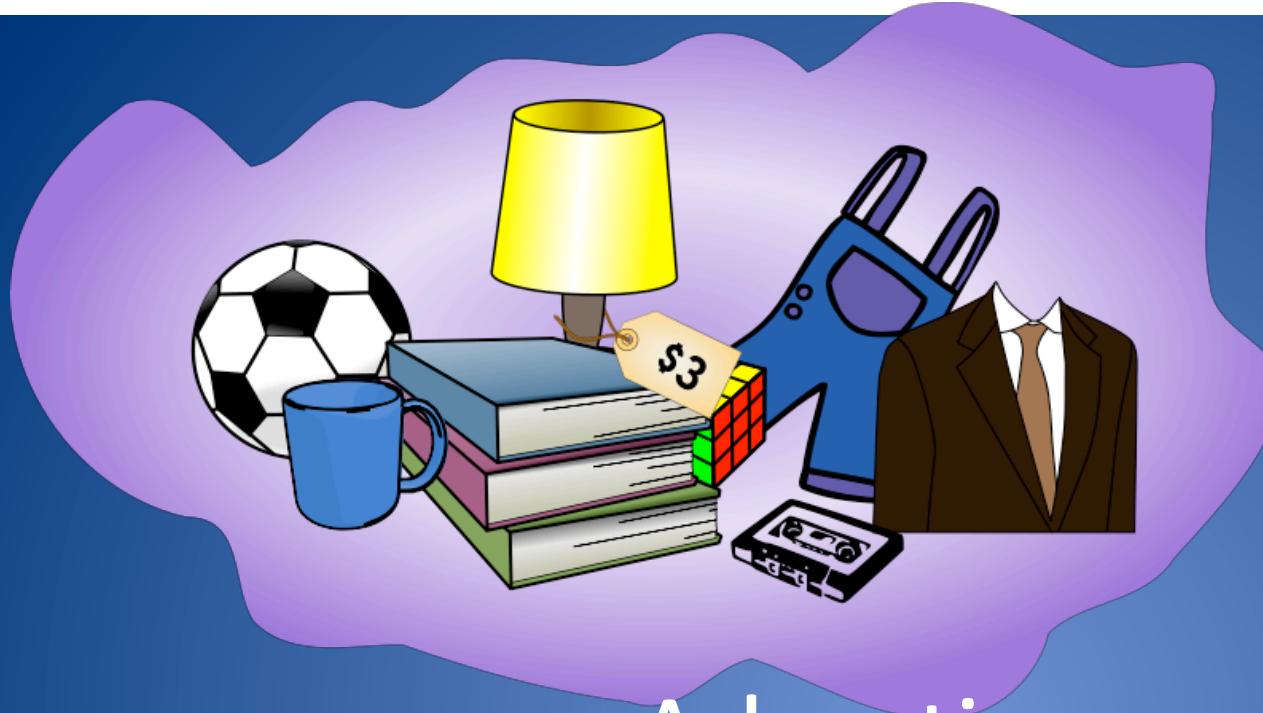
USE: Permanent Situation or Repeated Action
The present simple can also be used in informal stories, for example describing a film scene or telling a joke.

This electronic dictionary contains over 100,000 words.



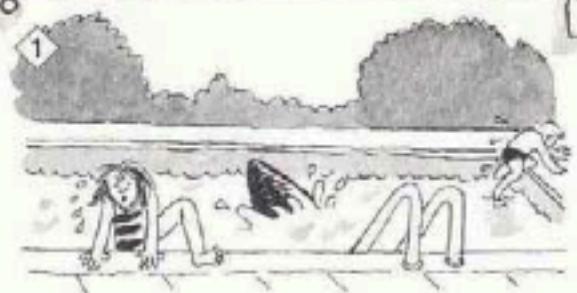
_____ just needs two batteries to run for hours and hours.

Ordinary dictionaries are large, and for many people _____ are inconvenient to carry around, but this electronic dictionary fits easily into your pocket or bag, so _____ can take it wherever you.



Advertisement

- Write a short advertisement for something you recently bought.



FOR SALE

Do you want to surprise
your friends? Do you
want to swim alone in
the swimming pool?
Buy a friendly shark!

£50 only

Tel: 021 454 56351

Football practice
4.00 p.m. on Wednesday

2

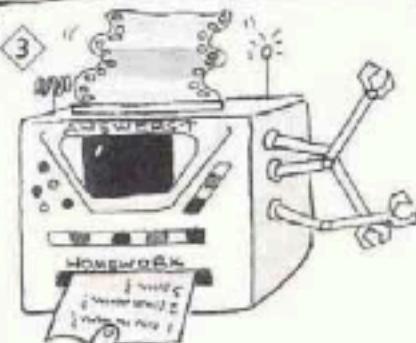


Are you tired of waiting for buses?
Do you want to travel in time?
Do you want to see the dinosaurs?
Do you want to visit other countries?
BUY A TIME/SPACE TRAVEL BICYCLE!
ONLY £750(batteries included)

Phillip Smith, 5, Queen Street, Hull, HU8 1QU

School Trip

Bring your money
to Dave in room 6
at lunch time.



.....
Homework:
Help
Machine.
Interested?

011 33882569

The Present Continuous

USE: The present continuous is used to talk about

1. Actions that going on or around the time of speaking. (Sarah is talking on the phone.)
2. Temporary situations. (He is working in Beijing)
3. Changing Situations, especially with verbs like get and become. (He's getting taller, isn't he? The city is becoming more and more dangerous.)
4. Behavior that happens more often than expected. (Why are always angry? // My boyfriend is always buying me presents.)
5. Future Plans

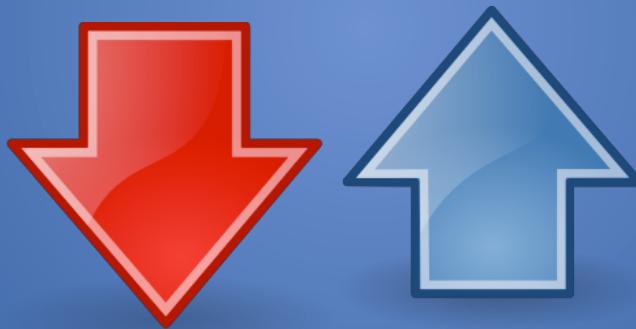
Talking about Trends

- Present Continuous tense is often used to talk about current trends, developments and changes.
- NOTE: The Present Simple Tense is often used for newspaper article titles while the present continuous is often used in the actual text of the story.

Development in China

- Use these verbs to talk about developments and changes in the world or China today:

change // earn // fall // get // go up //
go down // go up // increase // rise // etc.



For example: The population in China is rising.
The economy in Germany is improving.

Asian Youth Forgetting How to Write

What's this article about?



Asian Youth Forgetting How to Write

A new study commissioned by the *China Daily Youth* newspaper has found many young Chinese people are forgetting how to write traditional Chinese. Chinese schoolchildren grow up **memorizing** well over 3,000 different characters. However, the study shows they rarely need to write them by hand and are forgetting their **shape**. Instead, young people are using their phones and computers to write. [...] The report said 83% of the 2,072 respondents have problems writing characters, while 43% said they only write when they need to **sign** something.

Asian Youth Forgetting How to Write

The problem is so big that there is a name for it: ‘tibiwangzi,’ 提笔忘字 which means “take pen, forget character”. Chinese characters are the oldest writing system in the world in current use. They date back over 3,000 years.

University student Li Hanwei, 21, said: "I can remember the shape, but I can't remember the strokes that you need to write it...It's a bit of a problem." The phenomenon is known as "character **amnesia**" and is also common in Japan, where Chinese characters are one of four different alphabets used in writing.

Most Important...

Which of these are most important?
Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top.

- * Writing
- * Speaking
- * Spelling
- * Vocabulary
- * Pronunciation
- * Listening
- * Reading
- * Grammar

Discussion Questions

- Are you forgetful? What do you forget?
- How important is writing with a pen to you?
- Do you think technology has made people's writing worse?
- What do you think of Chinese youth forgetting how to write because they use mobile phones too much?
- Do you think the need for handwriting will disappear in the future?
- How important is writing to you compared with reading, speaking and listening?
- Do you think writing on phones and PCs makes us more expressive?
- What do you think of the 'tibiwangzi' phenomenon?
- How much of what you learnt at school have you forgotten? What should China's government do about 'tibiwangzi'?

Final Questions...

- What's the most difficult thing about writing in English?
- How can you get better at writing?

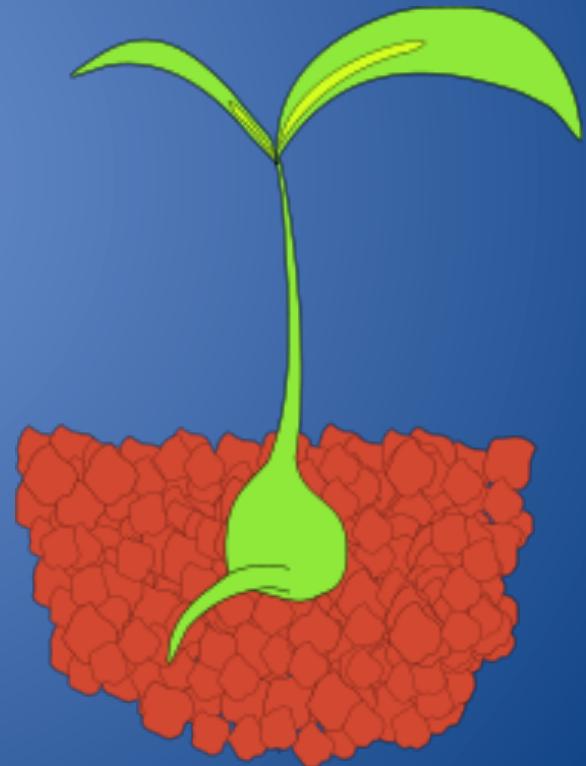
Homework

- Go to www.markwk.com/teaching/ and the section on SWUFE “Oral English”
- Download and print (or write out by hand) the Diagnostic Test.
- Determine Your Weaknesses and Things You Need to Work on.



Weird News (www.newsoftheweird.com)

- When Ron Sveden's left lung collapsed in May, doctors initially diagnosed a tumor, but on closer inspection learned that Sveden, of Brewster, Mass., had ingested a plant seed that had somehow migrated to his lung and sprouted open. He is recovering.
- [WHDH-TV (Boston), 8-11-10]



Weird News (www.newsoftheweird.com)

- **Disrespecting Electricity:**

New Hampshire teenager Kyle Dubois was critically injured in March when, during an electrical trades class, he and fellow students attached clamps to his nipples and plugged in an electrical cord.

Dubois suffered permanent brain damage, and in August his parents sued the school district and the teacher. [WTOP Radio-AP, 8-31-10]



Group Activity

What happened recently?

With a group or partner, talk about things that happened recently BUT without repeating a verb.

The Past Simple Tense

We use the past simple to talk about:

- past actions and events: *I went to the store and bought some bananas.*
- repeated past actions and events: *I always went hiking on Sundays with my father.*
- past states (long-lasting situations or feelings): *My father knew the CEO of Pepsi.*
- Sequence of events in the past...

We often use a time expression with the past simple

- *I went to the store last Thursday* (at lunch / in the evening / an hour ago).

Often the time is understood but not mentioned

- *Oh yes, we had a great time.* (We had a great at the karaoke last night.)

Group Activity

- In a group, tell a story together about something that happened yesterday. Each person must use a different verb.

For Example:

- Yesterday, I went shopping.
- Yesterday, I went shopping and bought some fruit.
- Yesterday, I went shopping and bought some fruit. But when I got home...

Past Continuous

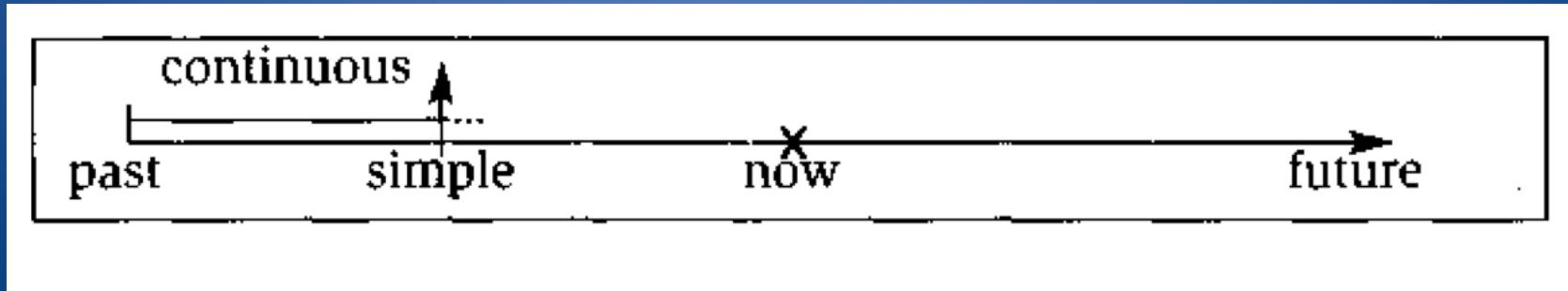
- Used to talk about the “scene of an event” during the past
- Used when we are interested in activities that were going on during a particular time.
- *When I was in high school, I was going to school during the day, playing sports in the afternoons and doing a part-time job in the evenings and weekends. It was a busy time!*

Past Simple Tense or Past Continuous?

- Past Continuous is used to talk about the background situation (what was generally happening at the time)
- The Past Simple is used to describe the events of the story (a sequence of events)

Examples: *I was reading a book when the phone rang.*

- *I was driving when I fell asleep.*





When she arrived, we were having dinner.

- Note the difference between: a) When she arrived, we had dinner. b) When she arrived, we were having dinner. The time order for (a) is arriving then having dinner.
- The time order for (b) is having dinner, during which she arrived.
-

I was having a bath when the phone rang. John arrived when I was eating. I was listening to the radio when I had an idea. We were playing tennis at 7 o'clock last night.

Practice Sentences

- I *was watching*, television when the phone rang, (watch)
- When the ambulance came, we _____ him into it.
(carry)
- She _____ her car when she suddenly felt ill.
(drive)
- When he saw me, he _____ off the wall, (fall)
- We _____ to the radio when it suddenly stopped working, (listen)
- Why _____ cards when he walked into the office?
(you play)

Writing Activity: What Happened?

- Look at each of these pictures and in one or two sentences describe what happened.



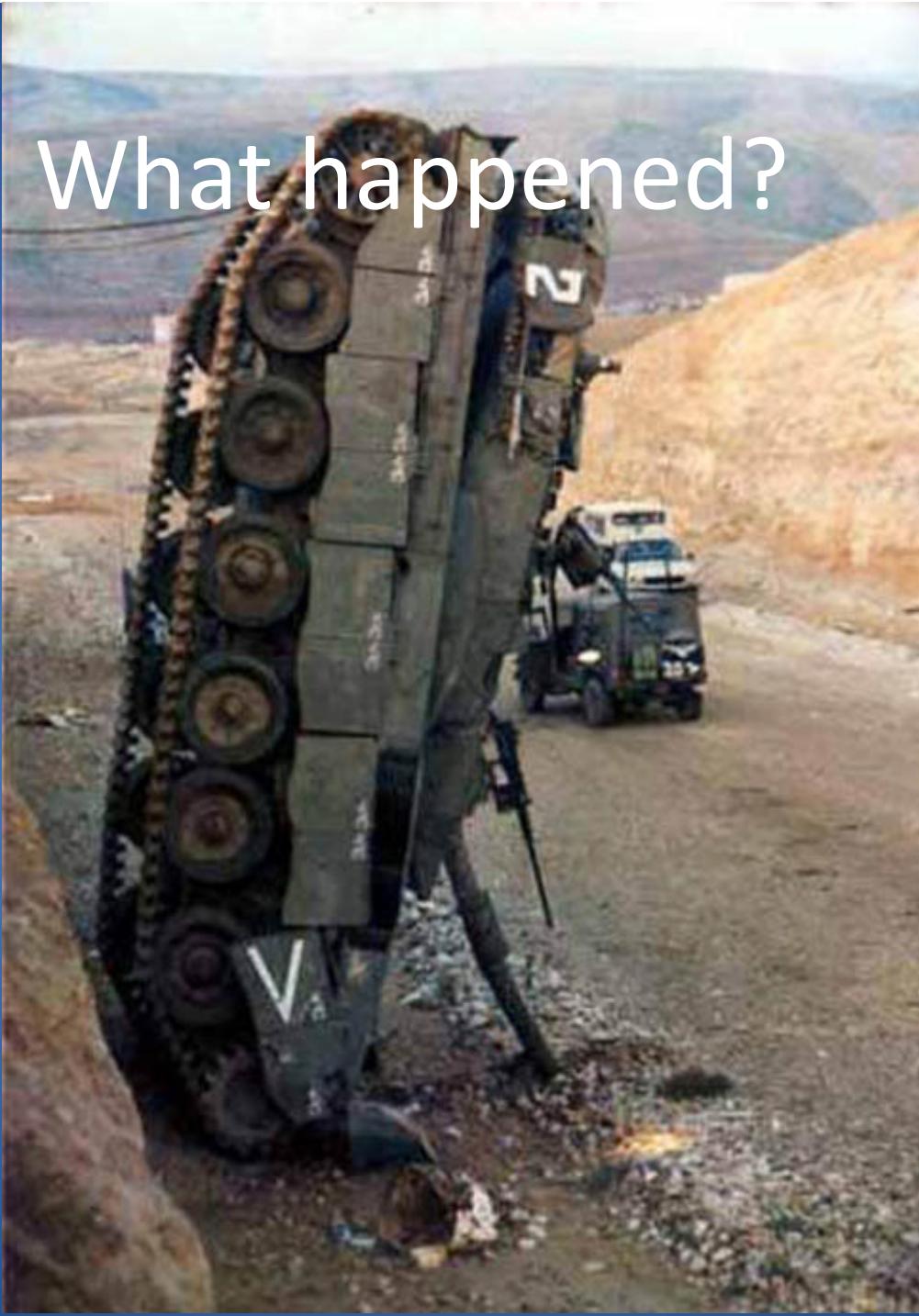
What happened?

- A man was driving his truck when he stopped paying attention and hit a house.

What happened?



What happened?



What happened?



What happened?



What happened?

- Compare your sentences with your partners.

Finish this story:

- *It was a cold, cold night when I saw a _____ was standing there.*

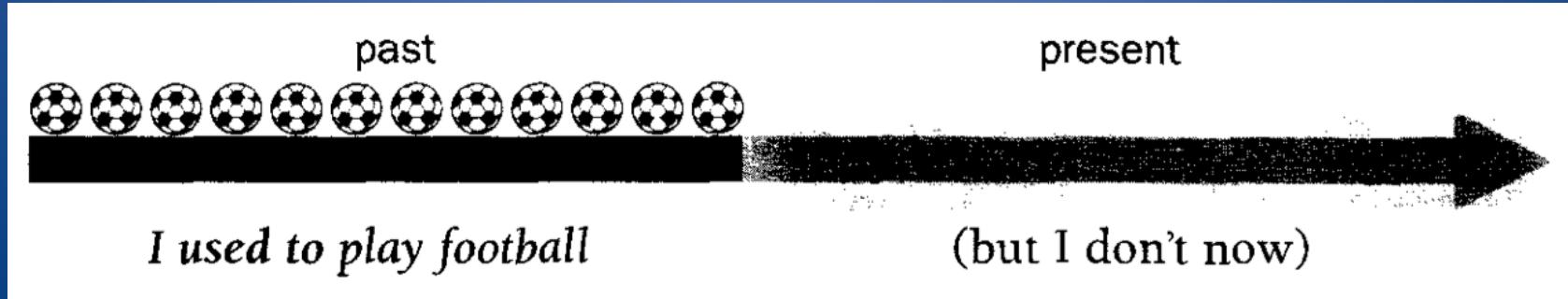
Use the past continuous to describe the scene or situation and the past tense to describe the events or things that happen during the story.

Used + Verb

- Used to is employed to talk about something (repeated actions or a past state like a feeling or situation) that was true in the past, but is not true any more, we can use used to + verb or the past simple.

Example

- I used to play basketball everyday.
- We used to go to the Internet Cafe every night.



Would (past)

- **Would + Verb** is only used for repeated actions that are no longer true.

Examples

- My friend would often go to bars to bars.
- NOT used for past states: (NOT: I ~~would love~~ gardening)



Group Activity: My Childhood

- Write on a separate piece of paper a paragraph about what you used to do as a child (using "used to" & "would + verb").

I used to wear

I'd often go to

My hair used to be

I'd play

My favourite food used to be

I used to listen to

I didn't use to like

My Dream!

- Describe a dream you had in the (recent) past.
(If you can't remember your dreams, just make an imaginary story about something amazing you did in your dreams).

For example:



Present Perfect Tenses

Look at these sentences:

- *Sarah lived in China for 7 years.*
- *Jean has lived in China for 7 years.*
- Who still lives in China now? Sarah or Jean?

What has happened?



- Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. He has his key.
- Talk with your partner about something you have lost and what you did.

Andrew Hayton, 26, has worked at Longleat Safari Park* for more than eight years. He is currently an elephant keeper and has also looked after rhinos.

Why did you choose this job?

I had been doing various jobs here. I heard about the rhino vacancy and I thought, 'This is the job for me' – I've always liked animals.

Have you ever thought of working in a zoo?

Zoos are very good and have a place, but not for larger animals.

Esther Wenman, 30, has worked at London Zoo for nearly seven years. She is head keeper of reptiles, and before that was a bird keeper.

What made you choose this job?

I've always been interested in conservation and ecology.

Have you ever thought of working in a safari park?

You don't get such good collections of birds and reptiles in safari parks.



a rhino



a reptile

*a safari park is a park where wild animals are kept and in which they can move freely

Present Perfect Simple (“Past-Still-Today” Tense)

- Present Perfect Simple is used to talk about something we want to link from the past to the present in some way.
- Compare: *I knew her when she was a baby.* VS. *I've known her for ten years.* (I met her ten years ago and I still know her.)
- Compare: *I went to London.* vs. *I've been to London.* (does not generally refer to a specific past time.)

The present perfect simple is used:

1. to talk about something that started in the past and still continuing now. (for + period of time / since + moment in time): *Andrew has worked at that company since 2001 / for nine years. I've always liked to play basketball.*
2. to talk about something that happened before but is still part of our experience (ever // before): *He has done that job before. Have you ever thought of being an actor or model?*
3. to talk about something that happened in the past but the result is important now. (recently / just / already / yet): *I've broken my arm. I've seen her recently. He's just returned from abroad. I've already seen that movie. Have you finished your dinner yet?*

For or Since?

1 Fill in the gaps in the phrases with *for* or *since*.

1 a long time

7 Wednesday

13 years

2 my last birthday

8 5 March 1999

14 December

3 ages

9 a few hours

15 a fortnight

4 I last saw her

10 yesterday

16 two o'clock

5 New Year's Eve

11 we were children

6 half an hour

12 six weeks

Sample Sentence:

I haven't gone home ____ a long time.

Notes about Past Perfect

- Changes are often described using the present tense. For example: *Inflation has risen again in the past few months.*
- News and discussions about changing or recent situations often start with the present perfect but then change to the past simple when talking about the details.
- *Have you heard about Sally? She's just lost her job. She found out a few days ago.*
- *Have you ever been to New York? Yes, twice actually. I first went when I was a child, and I recently returned a few weeks ago for a business trip.*

Have you ever...?

- (ride / horse) Have you ever ridden a horse?
- (be / abroad)
- (run / marathon)
- (speak / famous person)
- (most beautiful place / visit) What's...

Complete Sentences

- Work in pairs to complete one or two of the these sentences below:
- How you _____ recently?
- Have you just _____ ?
- Have you ever _____ ?
- Have you already _____ ?
- Have you _____ yet?

What has s/he done all day?











Which is correct? And Why?

Example: The baby's a day old and is doing well.

- 1 It's 7.30 a.m. The postman usually comes between 7.15 a.m. and 7.45 a.m.
- 2 I'm talking about my trip around Eastern Europe last year.
- 3 Alice is a good friend of mine.
- 4 I'm telling you this just after I heard the news.

- a) My sister's had a baby.✓
- b) My sister had a baby.
- a) The postman hasn't come yet.
- b) The postman didn't come this morning.
- a) I haven't been to Prague.
- b) I didn't go to Prague.
- a) She's known me since we were children.
- b) She knew me when we were children.
- a) A large shark has attacked a swimmer on Australia's western coast.
- b) A large shark attacked a swimmer on Australia's western coast.

Which is correct? And Why?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5 He is back with his family now. | a) No one has seen him for ten days |
| 6 My knee is much better now. | a) I've hurt my knee. |
| 7 I'm giving a friend recent news about Alexander. | a) Alexander has given up smoking.
b) Alexander gave up smoking. |
| 8 Mike didn't get the job. | a) Mike's applied for a new job.
b) Mike applied for a new job. |
| 9 I'm still studying maths with the same teacher. | a) I've learnt a lot from my maths teacher.
b) I learnt a lot from my maths teacher. |
| 10 The drug was never used because it was dangerous. | a) Scientists have found a new drug.
b) Scientists found a new drug. |

Is it raining?



- No, but the ground is wet.
- It **has been** raining.
- *An event or action that has recently happened.*

Present Perfect Continuous

- The present perfect continuous describes actions happening in the period up to now. It can be used:
 1. to say how long an activity or situation has been in progress (usually with for or since)
 - *She has been receiving anniversary gifts from her husband since they were married.*
 - *He has been living in that house since she was born.*
 2. to focus on an activity itself.
 - What have you been doing? I've been cooking. (Note: What is important is NOT the result, the food cooked, but the activity of cooking.)

It has been raining for two hours.



- How long has it been raining?
- It has been raining of two hours.
- *An event or action that started in the past and is still happening.*

What's the difference?

- I am studying...
- I have been studying...
- Don't bother me. I'm studying.
- I have been studying all afternoon. I think I'm going to take a break.

Simple Present Perfect vs. Present Perfect Continuous?

- We use the present perfect simple AND the present perfect continuous to show an action was repeated.
- 1: *I've had to work all week, but I still don't have enough money to go to the concert.*
- 2: *I've been working all week, but I still don't have enough money...*
- Note: #2 shows that it is repeated but we cannot say how many times.

Simple Present Perfect vs. Present Perfect Continuous?

- We use the present perfect simple to focus on the *result* or *completion* of an activity.
- *What have you done this afternoon?*
I've watched movies all afternoon and read a book.
- We use the present perfect continuous to talk about the activity itself.
- *What you have been doing this afternoon?*
I've been watching movies and chatting on QQ.
- NOTE: The activity is not necessarily finished or completed.

Compare these sentences.

- My hands are very dirty. I've been repairing the car.
- Joe has been eating too much recently. He should eat less.
- It's nice to see you again. What have you been doing since we last met?
- Where have you been? Have you been playing tennis?
- The car is OK again now. I've repaired it.
- Somebody has eaten all my chocolates. The box is empty.
- Where's the book I gave you? What have you done with it?
- Have you ever played tennis?

► Exercise 3 Choosing the right tense

In this conversation, fill in the gaps using the verb in brackets in the past simple or the present perfect simple or continuous.

A: I'm exhausted. I *'ve been shopping*. (*shop*) all afternoon and I don't seem to have found anything.

B: What 1 (*you / look*) for?

A: Oh, 2 I (*try*) to find Suzie a birthday present.

B: Well, what does she like?

A: She loves clothes, so I've been to about ten clothes shops but I 3 (*not find*) anything suitable yet. I 4 (*go*) to about five others yesterday too!

B: She 5 (*read*) a lot recently, hasn't she? 6 (*you / think*) of a book? I 7 (*just / look*) at some really good new novels at that bookshop in the shopping centre.

A: Good idea – I'll have a look. What about you? Have you had a good day?

B: Well, I 8 (*look*) for weeks for a bag to match this jacket, and at last I 9 (*find*) one. Here it is!

Homework / Activity

- Imagine your life (or any kind of life you wish!) in 10 or 20 years.
- Write to someone you haven't seen for a long time. Tell this friend:
 - (1.) what did these last few years (past simple),
 - (2.) what you done recently and
 - (3.) what you have been doing.



Dream Assignment Commentary

- This was a homework assignment about a sleep dream, not about your dreams about the future and what you want to be in the future.
- Check that verbs agree. When you start talking in the past, make sure all your verbs are in the past tense! For example: I know that so and so was a criminal (NOT: I knew so and so is a criminal.)

Dream Assignment Commentary

- I walked into. . .I went to. . .>>> that someone was doing something.
- I saw someone was waving to me.
- I heard someone was yelling at me.

- Watch punctuation. All new sentences in English must start with a Capital Letter: "A" in Apple.

- Verb Conjugation problem #1: awake: awoke / was awaken by...
- Verb Conjugation problem #2: dream: dreamt (I dreamt I was...)

Review of Tenses:

#1: A: What _____ you _____ (dream) about last night?

- B: I _____ (walk) along a dark road and I _____ (be) very frightened. Then, all of a sudden, I _____ (fly)!

#2: A: _____ you often _____ (dream) ?

- B: Yes, I _____ (have) dreams all the time -- every night!

#3: A: _____ you _____ (do) anything tomorrow?

- B: No, why? A: I _____ (have) a party. _____ you _____ (want) to come?

#4: A: Boys! What _____ you _____ (do) ?

- B: Sorry, sir. We _____ (practice) for the sports games tomorrow.
- A: Not in the classroom.

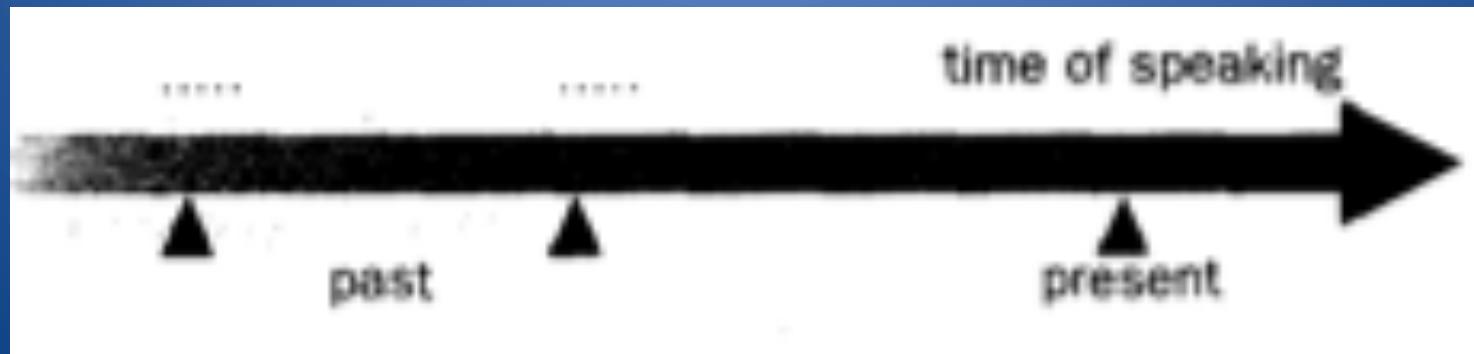


Past Perfect (had been)

- The past perfect is used when we are talking or writing about the past and we want to then mention or talk about an earlier time.
 - in order to give information out what happened before the events of the story.
 - in order to explain or commenting about something in the story (often using "because").
- *They finally let him buy a new computer, because he had asked for weeks. (or because he had been asking for weeks)*
- *His health wasn't in good shape. He had had several operations.*
- *I was relieved when the bus finally arrived, because I had waited since 7:00.*

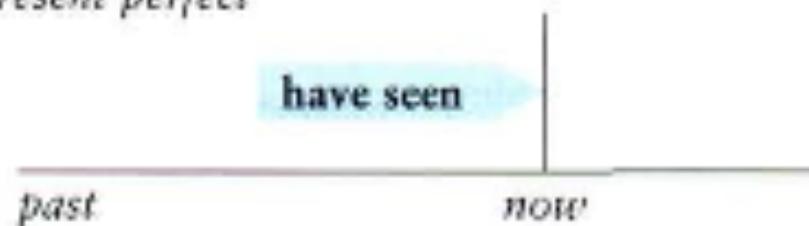
Past Perfect

- This is the start point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about something that happened before that time, we use the past perfect.
- *When his girlfriend arrived at the party, he had already left with someone else.*
- *When we got home last night, we found that somebody had broken into our house and had stolen our jewelry.*



Present Perfect vs. Past Perfect

Present perfect



- Who is that woman? I've never seen her before.
- We aren't hungry. We've just had lunch.
- The house is dirty. They haven't cleaned it for weeks.

Past perfect



- I didn't know who she was. I'd never seen her before. (= before that time)
- We weren't hungry. We'd just had lunch.
- The house was dirty. They hadn't cleaned it for weeks.

1 Work alone. Choose **one** of the sentences below, and think of a way of ending it using the past perfect.

- a) She was wearing one red sock and one white, because ...
- b) She was fired from her job because ...
- c) She looked exhausted because ...
- d) She was furious with Holly because ...
- e) She spent much more than usual because ...
- f) She got home more than three hours late because ...
- g) The house was a complete mess because ...
- h) She couldn't afford a taxi because ...

Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't there.

(she / go / out) ... She had gone out.

- 2 You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before.

(it / change / a lot) ...

- 3 I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn't come.

(she / arrange / to do something else) ...

- 4 You went to the cinema last night. You got to the cinema late.

(the film / already / begin) ...

- 5 It was nice to see Dan again after such a long time.

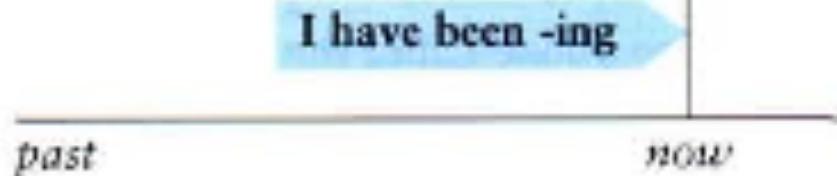
(I / not / see / him for five years) ...

- 6 I offered Sue something to eat, but she wasn't hungry.

(she / just / have / breakfast) ...

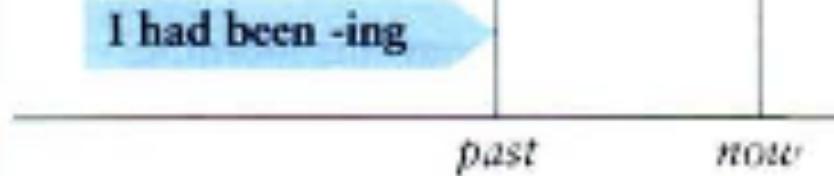
I had been -ing

Present perfect continuous



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

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 had been running.