

# Past tenses

	PAST SIMPLE	PAST CONTINUOUS
Structure	<p><b>+</b> Subj + <del>to</del> inf + <b>-ed</b> (reg: <del>to</del> inf-<b>ed</b> – irreg: 2<sup>nd</sup> column of paradigm)</p> <p><b>-</b> Subj + Aux (<b>DO</b>) past simple + <b>not</b> + <del>to</del> inf</p> <p><b>?</b> Aux (<b>DO</b>) past simple + Subj + <del>to</del> inf</p>	<p><b>+</b> Subj + Aux (<b>BE</b>) past simple + <del>to</del> inf + <b>-ing</b></p> <p><b>-</b> Subj + Aux (<b>BE</b>) past simple + <b>not</b> + <del>to</del> inf + <b>-ing</b></p> <p><b>?</b> Aux (<b>BE</b>) past simple + Subj + <del>to</del> inf + <b>-ing</b></p>
Use	<p><b>1. Finished actions with time reference</b> &gt; R. Diesel <b>invented</b> his engine in 1892.</p> <p><b>2. Series of actions in the past</b> &gt; The worker <b>cut</b> the sheet, <b>bent</b> the pieces, then <b>welded</b> them.</p> <p><b>3. Finished durations</b> &gt; Billy <b>worked</b> as a mechanic for 5 years when he was in his twenties.</p>	<p><b>1. Action happening at a certain moment in the past</b> &gt; The CNC technician <b>was working</b> yesterday at 5 pm.</p> <p><b>2. Interrupted past action</b> &gt; Liam <b>was 3d-printing</b> the prototype, when he <b>ran out</b> of PLA.</p> <p><b>3. Contemporaneity in the past</b> &gt; James <b>was checking</b> the pieces while Henry <b>was counting</b> them.</p>
Indicators	<p>■ <i>yesterday, last</i> + time expression, <i>when</i>, time expression + <i>ago, how long ago</i></p>	<p>■ <i>this time</i> + time expression, <i>while</i></p>

	PAST PERFECT SIMPLE	PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS
Structure	<p><b>+</b> Subj + Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) past simple + <b>past participle</b></p> <p><b>-</b> Subj + Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) past simple + <b>past participle</b></p> <p><b>?</b> Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) past simple + Subj + <b>past participle</b></p>	<p><b>+</b> Subj + Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) past simple + Aux (<b>BE</b>) Past Participle + <del>to</del> inf + <b>-ing</b></p> <p><b>-</b> Subj + Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) past simple + <b>not</b> + Aux (<b>BE</b>) Past Participle + <del>to</del> inf + <b>-ing</b></p> <p><b>?</b> Aux (<b>HAVE</b>) past simple + Subj + Aux (<b>BE</b>) Past Participle + <del>to</del> inf + <b>-ing</b></p>
Use	<p><b>1. Action finished before another finished action in the past</b> &gt; When I sent the project, I realised I <b>had forgotten</b> some details.</p>	<p><b>1. Action happened over a period up to a particular past time or until shortly before it</b> &gt; When I finally closed the workshop, I realised I <b>had been working</b> for 11 hours straight.</p>
Time indicators	<p>■ <i>Just, already, never</i></p> <p>■ <i>By the time, when, as soon as, after, once, until</i></p>	<p>■ <i>All</i> + time expression, <i>for a long time</i></p> <p>■ <i>For, since</i></p>
!!!	<p>■ For sequences of actions, use the past simple &gt; When the fire alarm <b>went off</b>, the workers <b>stopped</b> their activities, <b>walked</b> to the door and <b>went out</b> of the building.</p>	



## 5 Past simple vs continuous: complete the sentences with correct form of the verbs.

1. They ..... (program) the robot when the lights ..... (go off).
2. First, Oliver ..... (open) the box, ..... (take) out the air conditioner, ..... (mount) it on the window and finally ..... (switch) it on.
3. She ..... (work) on the project when her boss ..... (walk) into the office.
4. While Paul ..... (repair) his motorbike, his son ..... (play) computer games.
5. Yesterday at 9.00 am, the electrician ..... (repair) my boiler when he ..... (receive) an important phone call and ..... (leave) immediately.
6. A: When ..... (your company – move) to France? B: In 2023, I ..... (work) in Germany when it ..... (move).

## 6 Past perfect simple vs continuous: complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs.

1. Peter was Liam's best friend: they ..... (work) together for 30 years.
2. She tried to contact her mechanic, but he ..... (change) his phone number.
3. They ..... (read) the manual for one hour when the technician arrived.
4. The fire ..... (burn) for two days: by the time the fire brigade put it out, the flames ..... (destroy) almost all the plant.
5. The factory owner ..... (already - decide) not to buy the new robot because the price was too high.
6. She was exhausted because she ..... (work) since eight that morning.
7. The dam was empty because it ..... (not rain) for six months.
8. The workers were wet: they ..... (dismantle) the wind turbine in the rain.

## 7 Complete the text with the correct past tense.

Yesterday, two plumbers

1. .... (come) to our house: I 2. .... (call) them the day before because my air conditioning system 3. .... (break) down. While they 4. .... (discuss) about the possible problem, I 5. .... (notice) a leakage in one of the corners of the room. Some water 6. .... (drip) down the wall. After they 7. .... (inspect) the origin of the leakage, they 8. .... (decide) to change one of the units. The plumbers' company 9. .... (install) the system three months before and I 10. .... (use) the

air conditioners for two months only. So, I 11. ....

(require) the replacement under warranty, but they

12. .... (not be) allowed to make such a decision. They

13. .... (call) their boss: while they

14. .... (speak) on their mobile, I

15. .... (phone) my uncle who 16. .... (work) with their boss for six years. Thanks to my uncle's intervention, I 17. .... (obtain) what I 18. .... (ask) for.

