

# PAST TENSES

## past simple

A finished action which can be dated

He played tennis yesterday

## past continuous

An action taking place in the past. Emphasis on duration.

He was making cookies

## present perfect

An action in the past with an impact on present.

I have lived in this house for 5 year.

## past perfect

An past action taking place before another past action.

He has watched TV before he ate his dinner.

## Choose the correct answer between the two propositions:

1. Last week he went / has gone to the cinema.
2. When the telephone was ringing / rang, he was doing / did his homework.
3. When I was little we have lived / lived in a small village.
4. They had already prepared / already prepared dinner when he had arrived / arrived.
5. You have been/ were being careful, look now how you're doing so well.
6. Two hours ago they drank / were drinking coffee when the storm started/ was starting.

## Write the verbs in bracket with the appropriate Past tense (past simple, past continuous, present perfect, past perfect):

1. When I was little I \_\_\_\_\_ (practise) the violin. I \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) playing it when I was 14.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) your new suit yet?
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ (send) him a letter before he \_\_\_\_\_ (write) to inform them about the new contract.
4. While he \_\_\_\_\_ (feed) the dog, she \_\_\_\_\_ (do) the washing-up.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ (not read) the love letter that I \_\_\_\_\_ (write) for him.
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ (already/ make) our decision, and we are not going to hire you.
7. They \_\_\_\_\_ (repair) their car in front of their house, when a police car \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive). They \_\_\_\_\_ (not know) what \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on!
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Los Angeles for a very long time, but we \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to New York when I was eleven. But we \_\_\_\_\_ (not sell) our House in Los Angeles yet.

9. Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs (Simple Past or Past Perfect)

10. I ..... **(get up)** around seven o'clock, ..... **(have)** a shower and ..... **(make)** myself a cup of tea and some toast. After I ..... **(have)** breakfast, I ..... **(put on)** my clothes for work. It ..... **(not take)** too much time because I ..... **(iron)** them the night before. I then ..... **(get ready)** to leave the house. I ..... **(pick up)** my lunch box containing some sandwiches I ..... **(make)** very early that morning. I ..... **(already/open)** the front door when the phone ..... **(ring)**. It ..... **(be)** my best friend. We ..... **(arrange)** to meet that evening for dinner but she ..... **(call)** to say she ..... **(cannot make)** it because her car ..... **(break down)** and she ..... **(need)** to take it to the garage.

11.  
12. Complete the short texts with the correct form of the verbs. (Simple Past or Past Perfect)

13. A plumber (come) ..... to our house yesterday. He wanted to repair our washing machine that (break) ..... a few days before. Before he (ring) ..... at my door, he (look) ..... for a parking space for about ten minutes; it ..... (be) very difficult to find a space because our neighbors ..... (organize) a party for their son and there were many cars on the street. After two hours of repairing the washing machine, someone (knock) ..... at my door. I (open) ..... the door and (see) ..... a police officer standing there. He asked for the plumber. The problem ..... (be) that a car (crash) ..... into a stop sign just before it ..... (reach) the crossroads. In the end, it (be) ..... our plumber's car that (roll) ..... down the street. In his haste, the plumber (forget) ..... to set the handbrake.

14. (Simple Past or Past Perfect)

15. Yesterday, Mandy (go) ..... to a café after work. She (sit) ..... down at a table outside the café and (look) ..... at the menu. When the waiter (come) ..... to take her order, she (be) ..... surprised. It (be) ..... James, an old friend from school. They (see/not) ..... each other for at least five years. So they (tell) ..... each other what (happen) ..... in the past five years.