

## Past perfect

I can talk about events happening at different times in the past.

- 1 Read the example of the past perfect. Then look at the timeline and answer the question below.

When I got home, somebody had tidied my room.

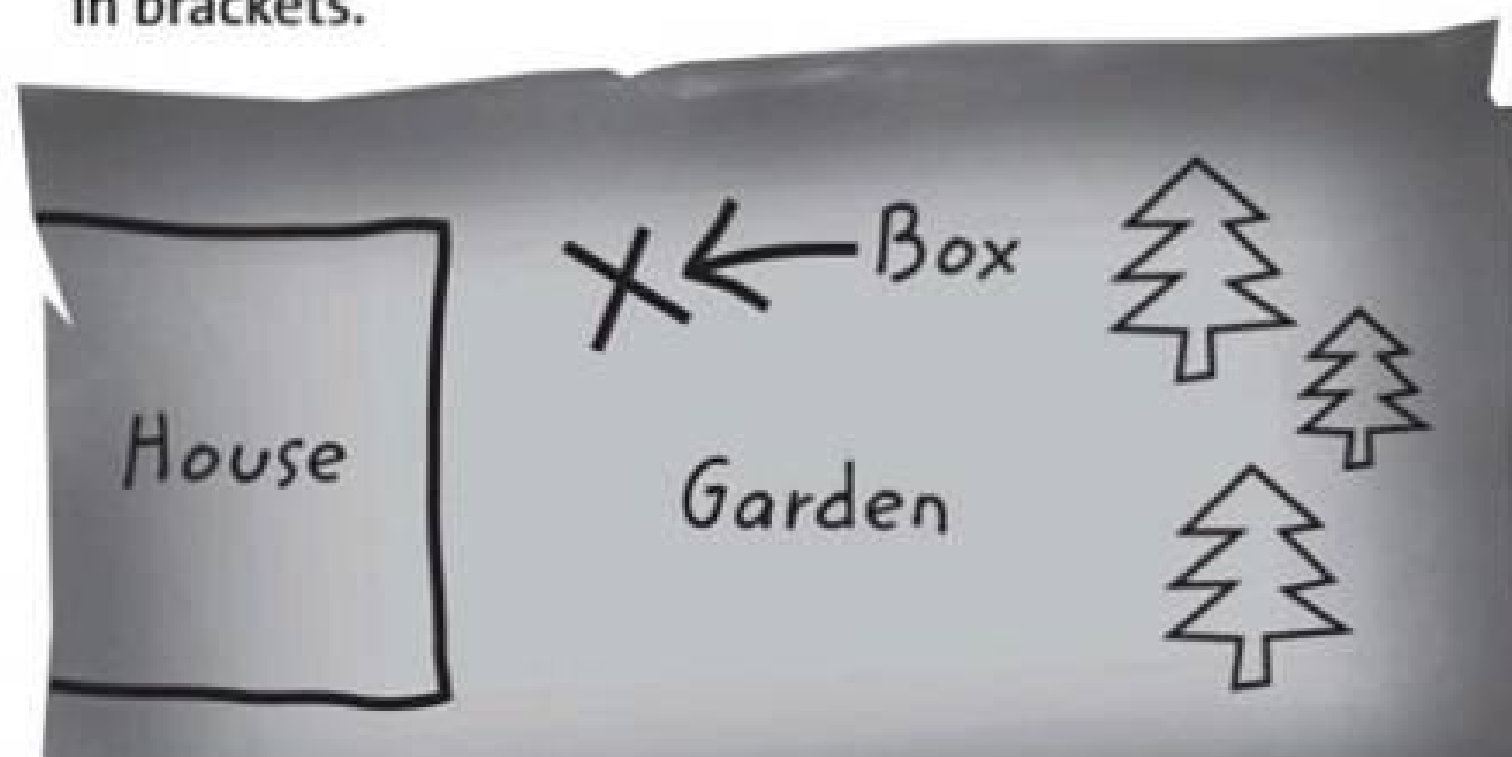


When did somebody tidy my room? A  B  C

- 2 Complete the sentences with the past perfect form of the verbs in brackets.

- Tom \_\_\_\_\_ (take) his bike apart and was trying to fix it.
- She took out a letter which she \_\_\_\_\_ (keep) in a drawer for years.
- When I clicked 'buy', the price \_\_\_\_\_ (increase).
- I was cross when the computer suddenly switched off, because I \_\_\_\_\_ (not save) my document.
- He couldn't move back to London because he \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) his flat there.

- 3 Complete the text with the past perfect form of the verbs in brackets.



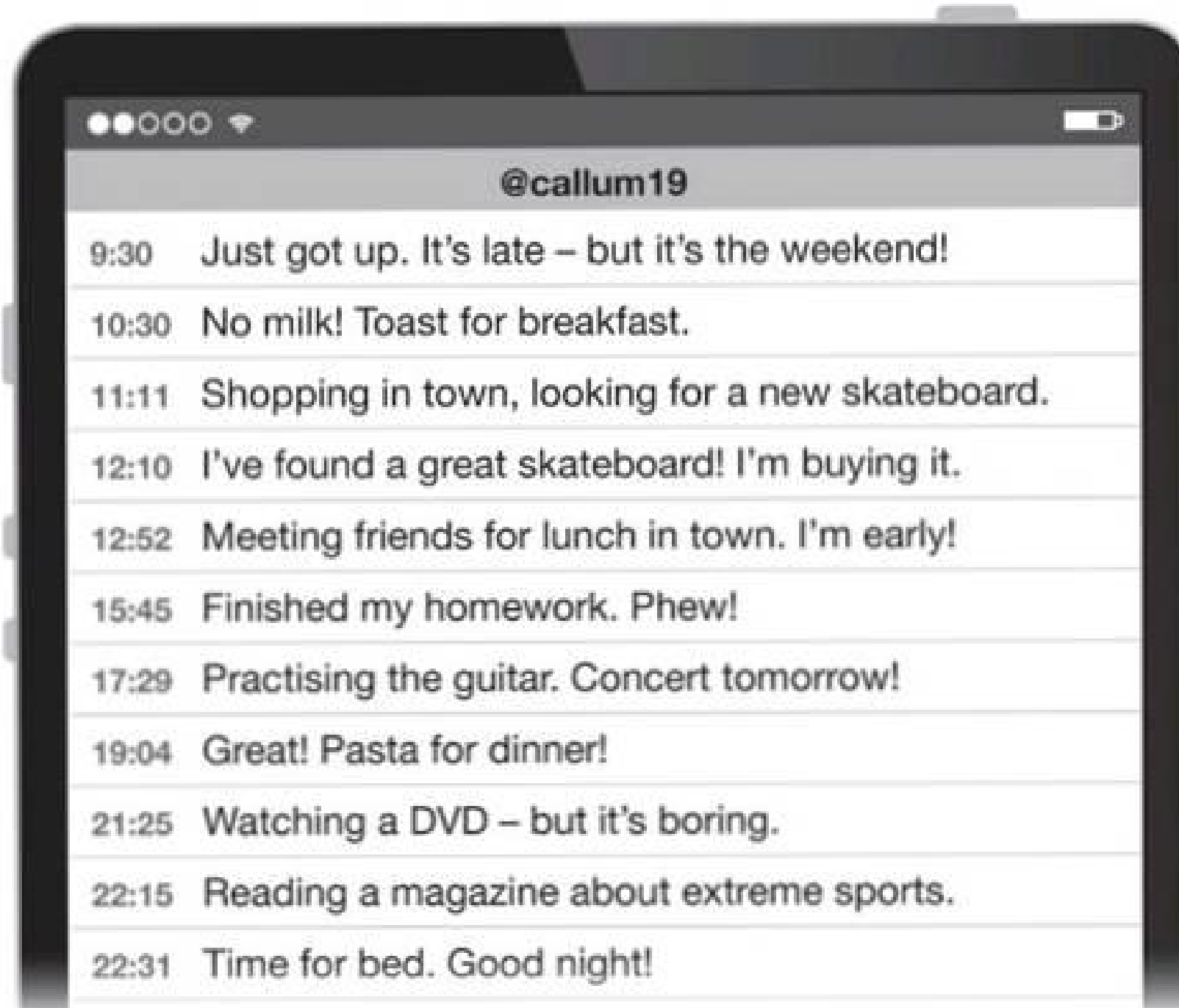
A family in Wales has tried, without success, to get their hands on £5,000 which belongs to them. Six months ago, Richard Williams found a note inside a book. It was from his father, Allan Jones, who <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (die) two years earlier. The note told Richard about a metal box with £5,000 inside – money that his father <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (save up) during his lifetime. Before he died, his father <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (bury) the box in the garden, near the house. Then he <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a note for the family. He <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (draw) a small map too, showing the exact location of the money.

Unfortunately, since Allan's death, the Williams family <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (do) some building work. They <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (add) two rooms to the back of house – directly on top of the buried money! 'If we tried to get the money now, we'd cause too much damage. It would cost more than £5,000 to repair it,' says Richard, who <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not know) anything about his father's money until he found the note.

- 4 Rewrite the following sentences using one past perfect verb and one past simple verb.

- I bought a ticket, then I checked the numbers.  
After I'd bought a ticket, I checked the numbers.
- We bought some chicken, then we made dinner.  
When \_\_\_\_\_
- My parents went out, then I got home.  
When \_\_\_\_\_
- The sun came out, then we arrived at the beach.  
After \_\_\_\_\_
- I took my bike apart, then I cleaned every piece.  
After \_\_\_\_\_
- It got dark, then we arrived at the hotel.  
When \_\_\_\_\_
- I spoke to my dad, then I applied for the job.  
After \_\_\_\_\_
- She read the letter, then she began to laugh.  
When \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Look at the updates showing what Callum did yesterday. Then write more sentences like the example. Use the past perfect and the past simple.



- get up / have breakfast  
After he'd got up, he had breakfast.
- have breakfast / go shopping  
\_\_\_\_\_
- buy a skateboard / meet friends for lunch  
\_\_\_\_\_
- finish his homework / practise the guitar  
\_\_\_\_\_
- have dinner / watch a DVD  
\_\_\_\_\_
- read a magazine / go to bed  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Past perfect

I can talk about events happening at different times in the past.



## Buried treasure

In November 2013, James Howells started searching an enormous rubbish dump. He was looking for a computer hard drive which he had thrown away three months earlier. The hard drive contained 7,500 bitcoins (a virtual currency that people use online). He **had bought** the bitcoins for almost nothing in 2009, but by 2013 the value of a single bitcoin had risen to over \$1,000. So, the value of Howells's collection had increased to \$7.5 million.

In 2010, Howells, who works in IT, had taken his computer apart because he had spilled a drink on it. He had first kept the hard drive and had sold the other parts. When in 2013 he heard about the value of the virtual currency, it was too late. He had thrown the hard drive away! He had totally forgotten about the bitcoins. Howells never found the hard drive – and unfortunately, **he hadn't saved** any of his data.

- 1 Read the text. Where is Howells's hard drive? How much is it worth? Did he find it?
- 2 Look at the examples of the past perfect highlighted in the text in exercise 2. Find all the other examples. Complete rule a in the **Learn this!** box.

### LEARN THIS! Past perfect

a We form the past perfect with <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ or <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and the past participle.

b We use the past perfect when we are already talking about past events and we want to talk about an even earlier event.

*When I got to the classroom, the lesson had started.*



c We often use the past perfect with *after* or *when*.  
*When I got to the bus station, the bus had already left.*  
*After I'd called Maggie, I watched a film on TV.*

- 3 Read rules b and c in the **Learn this!** box. Explain the difference in meaning between the sentences below.
  - 1 When he threw away the computer, Howells forgot about the bitcoins.
  - 2 When he threw away the computer, Howells had forgotten about the bitcoins.

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- 4 Complete the sentences. Use the past perfect form of the verbs in brackets. Remember that *go* can have two past participles. (See **Look out!** box on page 64.)

- 1 After I \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the newsagent's, I realised I \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) to buy a paper.
- 2 I didn't know that deli was so expensive. I \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) anything there before.
- 3 When I got to the shopping centre, most of the shops \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_. (close)
- 4 We didn't have any bread because I \_\_\_\_\_ (not go) to the baker's.
- 5 My sister wasn't there when I got home because she \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema.

- 5 **USE OF ENGLISH** Rewrite each pair of sentences as one sentence, using *after*.

- 1 I bought a lottery ticket. Then I went home.  
*After I'd bought a lottery ticket, I went home.*
- 2 I went to the cosmetics store. Then I went to the hairdresser's.
- 3 I paid for the flowers. Then I left the shop.
- 4 Jim did some shopping. Then he caught the bus home.
- 5 My dad left university. Then he became a teacher.
- 6 The chemist's closed down. Then a charity shop opened in the same building.

- 6 Complete the text with the phrases below. Use the past perfect.

buy his ticket   not check the numbers   lose  
lose his ticket   win the lottery   take the lottery company

When Martyn Tott learned that he <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, he was, of course, delighted. He <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ months earlier at his local newsagent's. He <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at the time, but he knew he was the winner because he always chose the same six numbers. But there was a problem. He <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_! Martyn Tott's computer records proved that he was the winner, but the lottery company refused to pay him without a ticket. Two years later, he was almost penniless. He <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to court, but <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the battle. He said he wished he had never played the lottery!

- 7 Read the sentences below. Then think of explanations for the situation or event using the past perfect. What had happened?

- 1 A man was holding a lottery ticket and smiling.
- 2 The car drove onto the pavement and hit a lamp post.
- 3 A cleaner found a wallet under the seats in the cinema.
- 4 A security guard stopped a woman outside the department store.
- 5 The boy opened the envelope, read the letter and started to dance around.

- 8 **SPEAKING** Take turns to ask and answer questions about the sentences in exercise 7.

Why was the man smiling?

He had won some money.