## PAST SIMPLE/CONTINUOUS/PERFECT

We use specific tenses for narratives. When we tell a story, we use these tenses. The tense we use depends on the time of the event.

**Past Simple** 

**Past Continuous** 

**Past Perfect** 

When we talk about past events we use **Past Simple**.

I started learning English!



**Past Simple** 

When the event is not finished at the time, we use **Past Continuous**.

I was learning English!



**Past Continuous** 

When the event happens before another event, we use **Past Perfect**.

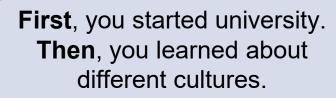
I had learned English before I learned German!



**Past Perfect** 

We use **when** to emphasize the sequence in events.

I **learned** about different cultures **when** I **started** university.







When

We can use **when** with almost any tense. The sequence of events change.

I had drunk all the water at home, when they arrived. I was running home, when you were drinking the water.





First I drank the water, then you came.

The actions happened at the same time.

We also use **after/before** to denote the sequence of events.

Had you known who they were, before they called us?

No. I learned **after** you told me.





After/before

We have special adverbs for past perfect.

I had done the cleaning **by the time** you arrived.

I didn't know that **until** you had told me.





By the time/Until

Exercises
1. It was their first flight. They (fly) before.
2. You didn't know it until I (tell) you, right?
3. Paul wasn't at the party when I arrived. He (go) home.
4. I felt very tired when I got home, so I (go) straight to bed.
5. The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody (go) to bed.
*Complete the story using the past simple, past perfect, or past continuous of the verbs in brackets.
It(be) Tuesday evening and I (get) ready to go to bed when the phone (ring). To my surprise it (be) my friend Peter. He (call) from his mobile and he was very annoyed because he (lose) his keys and he (cannot) get into his flat. He (think) he (leave) them at work but now it was midnight and the office was closed so he (cannot) get in to check. Luckily I had the keys to his flat because a month before he (give) me a spare set so that I could look after his cat while he was on holiday. When he finally (arrive) to pick them up, it was three o'clock in the morning, and I (lie) on the sofa fast asleep.

## **Answer Key**

- 1. It was their first flight. They **hadn't flown** (fly) before.
- 2. You didn't know it until I had told (tell) you, right?
- 3. Paul wasn't at the party when I arrived. He had gone (go) home.
- 4. I felt very tired when I got home, so I went (go) straight to bed.
- 5. The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody **had gone** (go) to bed.

## \*Complete the story using the past simple, past perfect, or past continuous of the verbs in brackets.

It was (be) Tuesday evening and I was getting (get) ready to go to bed when the phone rang (ring). To my surprise it was (be) my friend Peter. He was calling (call) from his mobile and he was very annoyed because he had lost (lose) his keys and he couldn't (cannot) get into his flat. He thought (think) he had left (leave) them at work but now it was midnight and the office was closed so he couldn't (cannot) get in to check. Luckily I had the keys to his flat because a month before he had given (give) me a spare set so that I could look after his cat while he was on holiday. When he finally arrived (arrive) to pick them up, it was three o'clock in the morning, and I was lying (lie) on the sofa fast asleep.