

# Past tenses revision

## Past simple

→ an action that happened at a definite time in the past  
Last year we **bought** a dog.

→ actions that happened immediately one after the other in the past

Lou **took** a shower, **brushed** his teeth and **went** to bed.



Complete the sentences with the correct past form.

1. By the time we \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to the theatre, the play \_\_\_\_\_ (already, start).
2. Last night I \_\_\_\_\_ (dream) about going to the Moon.
3. When Ginny \_\_\_\_\_ (see) me yesterday, I \_\_\_\_\_ (cross) the street.
4. My dad \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) the living room for two hours before my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to help him.
5. Nora \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) in a hammock while Phil \_\_\_\_\_ (weed) the garden.
6. Before the Smiths \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) their new house, they \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for a suitable one for a year.
7. Laura \_\_\_\_\_ (send) us a postcard from her holiday in Italy.

## Past continuous

→ an action that was in progress at a stated time in the past  
Yesterday at 4 I **was talking** to Meg on the phone.

→ two actions that were happening at the same time  
Liz **was vacuuming** while her sons **were tidying** their room.

→ an action that was in progress (longer action) when another action interrupted it  
When I came in, Sue **was reading**.



8. As Claire \_\_\_\_\_ (dust) the furniture, she \_\_\_\_\_ (break) her mum's vase.
9. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ (never, be) to the circus before last week.
10. Pam and I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for the history exam when the lights \_\_\_\_\_ (go) off.
11. The alarm clock \_\_\_\_\_ (not, ring) yesterday morning and I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late for work.
12. Mr. Roberts \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in the company for six years before it \_\_\_\_\_ (go) bankrupt.
13. You \_\_\_\_\_ (not, sleep) when I \_\_\_\_\_ (return) last night.
14. When \_\_\_\_\_ (they, visit) you last time?
15. Yesterday at this time, Karen \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a letter of application to the manager of L'Oréal.
16. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not, pay) attention to the teacher and my friends \_\_\_\_\_ (not, pay) attention, either.
17. When we \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out for a walk last Sunday morning, the sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine) and it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) quite warm.

## Past perfect

an action that happened before another action in the past  
Before we left, we **had booked** a hotel room.

complete past action that had visible results in the past

We felt relieved after they **had arrived** safely.



18. We \_\_\_\_\_ (never, see) the Pyramids before our trip to Egypt in 2005.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ (Simon and Alice, get) married last summer?
20. They \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for more than an hour before Lady Gaga \_\_\_\_\_ (appear) on the stage.
21. Michael and Robert \_\_\_\_\_ (rollerblade) in the backyard when Sally \_\_\_\_\_ (phone).
22. I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) Harry at Brenda's birthday party last month.
23. Where \_\_\_\_\_ (you, spend) your last winter holidays?

## Past perfect continuous

an action continuing over a period up to a specific time in the past

Pete **had been working** as a doctor for 25 years before he retired last year.

action of certain duration that had visible results in the past

Mark **had been studying** Spanish for five years before he moved to Toledo.



24. My cousin and I \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) at a park bench when we \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) a thunder.
25. By six o'clock Ted \_\_\_\_\_ (pack) all his staff in his backpack.
26. I \_\_\_\_\_ (sunbathe) for two hours before it \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to rain.

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# Answers

Complete the sentences with the correct past form.

1. By the time we got to the theatre, the play had already started.
2. Last night I dreamt about going to the Moon.
3. When Ginny saw me yesterday, I was crossing the street.
4. My dad had been painting the living room for two hours before my brother came to help him.
5. Nora was lying in a hammock while Phil was weeding the garden.
6. Before the Smiths bought their new house, they had been looking for a suitable one for a year.
7. Laura sent us a postcard from her holiday in Italy.
8. As Claire was dusting the furniture, she broke her mum's vase.
9. My sister had never been to the circus before last week.
10. Pam and I were studying for the history exam when the lights went off.
11. The alarm clock didn't ring yesterday morning and I was late for work.
12. Mr. Roberts had been working in the company for six years before it went bankrupt.
13. You weren't sleeping when I returned last night.
14. When did they visit you last time?
15. Yesterday at this time, Karen was writing a letter of application to the manager of L'Oréal.
16. I wasn't paying attention to the teacher and my friends weren't paying attention, either.
17. When we went out for a walk last Sunday morning, the sun was shining and it was quite warm.
18. We had never seen the Pyramids before our trip to Egypt in 2005.
19. Did Simon and Alice get married last summer?
20. They had been waiting for more than an hour before Lady Gaga appeared on the stage.
21. Michael and Robert were rollerblading in the backyard when Sally phoned.
22. I met Harry at Brenda's birthday party last month.
23. Where did you spend your last winter holidays?
24. My cousin and I were sitting at a park bench when we heard a thunder.
25. By six o'clock Ted had packed all his stuff in his backpack.
26. I had been sunbathing for two hours before it started to rain.