

have been to – have gone to – have been in

Jerry has been to Japan a few times. (He went there in the past, but he's not there now.)

Mona has gone to the hairdresser's. (She's there now.)

My brother has been in Paris since last Friday. (He's still there.)

how long did – how long have

Imagine you have a friend, Julie, who used to live in Manchester, but who lives in London now. We could ask:

How long did Julie live in Manchester? (Past Simple because she no longer lives there.)

How long has she lived in London? (Present Perfect Simple because she moved to London in the past and still lives there.)

Unit 02

Past Tenses

Past Simple

Use	Example	Time expressions	
1 actions that took place at a definite time in the past	We walked through the park yesterday afternoon.	• then	• a year ago
2 past actions that took place one after the other	Tom woke up, brushed his teeth and got dressed.	• when	• in May/2014
3 past states and past habits	Beth lived in Athens for two years. She often had dinner with us in those days.	• yesterday	• this morning
		• last week/month	

Past Continuous

Use	Example	Time expressions	
1 past actions that were in progress for some time	I was cleaning the kitchen all morning.	• when	
2 past actions that were in progress at a particular time	At 8:30, the kids were walking to school.	• while	
3 actions that were in progress when something happened	Kevin was watching TV when we got there.	• as	
4 two actions that were in progress at the same time	Dad was cutting the grass while Mum was watering the flowers.		
5 to describe the background to a story	The sun was shining and birds were singing.		

Past Habits and Past States

We can use the Past Simple and **used to** when we are talking about past habits and past states. We can also use **would** to talk about past habits, but not for past states. (This means we don't usually use **would** with stative verbs. It is also unusual to use **would** in negative sentences and questions.)

Past Habits	Past States
She jogged in the park every day when she was younger.	James hated soup when he was a little boy.
She used to jog in the park every day when she was younger.	James used to hate soup when he was a little boy.
She would jog in the park every day when she was younger.	NOT: James would hate soup ...

Note how we form the negative and question forms of **used to**:

Did Dad **use to** play professional football?

Karen **didn't use to** like classical music.

during – for – while

She chatted online during the game.

She chatted online for a few minutes.

She chatted online for a few minutes during the game.

She chatted online while watching the game.

ago – before

Matthew got his driving licence two years ago.

Matthew had driving lessons before he took his driving test.

Before he bought a car, Matthew learnt how to drive.

then – afterwards

Alison left school, then she started looking for a job.

Alison left school. Afterwards, she started looking for a job.

until – as soon as

We played in the garden until it got dark.

As soon as it got dark, we stopped playing and went inside.

by – until

Jackie was at school by 9:00. (She arrived at or before 9:00.)

She had lessons there until 3:00. (Her last lesson finished at 3:00.)

when

Notice the differences in meaning:

When I said hello, he laughed.

When I said hello, he was laughing.

When/While/As I was saying hello, he laughed.

When/While/As I was saying hello, he was laughing.

time + ago – it + be + time + since

We can use **since** or **ago** to say how long ago something happened.

The train arrived an hour ago.

It is an hour since the train arrived.

It has been an hour since the train arrived.

Past Perfect Simple

Use	Example	Time expressions	
1 actions that took place in the past before other past actions	<i>By the time we got to the station, the train had left.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after • before • since • for • when • until 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as soon as • already • by • by then • by the time
2 actions that took place before a certain time in the past	<i>By 7 o'clock, Fred had finished making dinner.</i>		

Past Perfect Continuous

Use	Example	Time expressions	
1 past actions that were in progress when another action took place	<i>They hadn't been driving long when the argument started.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all day/week • since • for 	
2 actions that had been in progress for some time and then had visible results in the past	<i>Adam was angry because he had been waiting for an hour.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • before • when 	