



## Narrative Tenses

### ***Past Simple***

- To express a completed action at a definite time in the past. The separate events which occur in sequence in a narrative are expressed using this tense

**Example: I woke up at 5am and my favourite song was playing on the radio.**

- To express past habits.

**Example: She went to school in Edmonton until her family moved to Vancouver.**

- “Used to +verb” can also be used to express past habits

**Example: They used to play cards every Saturday when they were young.**

- Would (+ adverb of frequency) + verb can be used to express past habits

**Example: My teachers would often give us lists of definitions to memorize.**

### ***Past Continuous***

- Gives the idea of activity and duration
- To describe the situation in which the events of the narrative occurred

**Example: When I woke up, it was raining and, somewhere in the house, music was playing.**

- To express an activity in progress at a time in the past

**Example: We were planning her surprise party when she walked in.**

- An interrupted activity



**Example: The girls were setting the table when guests started arriving.**

- An unfinished activity

**Example: I was answering the last question on the exam when time ran out.**

- A repeated action

**Example: They were shooting at the enemy.**

- A temporary situation

**Example: He was standing in the doorway.**

### ***Past Perfect***

- To show that an action or situation happened BEFORE the events in the narrative

**Example: Sally's family had travelled to many countries before they settled in Switzerland.**

### ***Past Perfect Continuous***

- Used for longer activities that were happening continuously up until a specified time in the past

**Example: He looked very tired. He had been working very hard over the past three weeks.**