

# 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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.



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