

Past perfect simple and continuous

GRAMMAR ZONE

Past perfect simple

- to show that one action finished before, or when, another action happened in the past
*John **had** already **bought** the house before he **got** married.*

Note: If we are talking about two actions, one after the other, we usually use the past simple for both.

*The lesson **finished** and we **went** home.*

- to show that a situation existed before an event in the past

*The king **had been** on the throne for two years when the revolution **started**.*

Note: We often use this form after verbs like said, told, thought, explained, etc.

*The general **told** him he **had won** the battle.*

Past perfect continuous

- something that was in progress for a period of time before another thing happened. It did not necessarily finish when the other thing happened.

*It **had been raining** all afternoon when Karen arrived.*

- something that was in progress for a period of time which caused another situation to exist

*It **had been snowing**, so the road was very slippery.*

Note: We often use a time clause beginning with *for* or *since* with this form.

*We **had been walking** for hours when we saw the town in the distance.*

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*'When the fire engine **arrived** the fire **had** already **destroyed** the house.'*

1 Choose the correct form of the verb in *italics* to complete the sentences.

- The phone *had been ringing/rang* for ages before she answered it.
- By the time the storm was over, the river *had flooded/ been flooding* the village.
- The teacher told us that the Romans *had been arriving/arrived* in Britain in 43 AD.
- 'Did you ask him if he *had taken/took* his medicine?'
- 'Yes. He said he had just *been finishing/finished* the bottle.'
- Tony was surprised that the storm had not *been waking/woken* him up.
- We were sitting on the steps when the bus *had come/came*.
- The people were very angry because they *had paid/ been paying* such high taxes for years.
- The girls *had been studying/studying* ancient Roman art for two terms.
- When Harriet saw Jill's bedroom she said she had never *seen/been seeing* such a mess.

2 Write either the past perfect simple or continuous of the verbs in brackets to complete the sentences.

- 1 Gareth realised that Tim (tell) him lies all the time.
- 2 They (give) him the key to the house before they went away.
- 3 Because they had no antibiotics, 2,000 people (die).
- 4 We (wait) for days when the letter finally arrived.
- 5 At the end of the match David didn't know if his team (win) or not.
- 6 Sam felt really proud because he (pass) his French exam.
- 7 Bella decided that she (work) long enough, so she put her books away.
- 8 By the time help arrived, the cat (be) stuck up the tree for hours.
- 9 (you notice) how thick the snow is getting?
- 10 I think it's time to go to sleep. We (talk) for hours!

3 Put the words in the correct order.

- 1 thought / I / had / finished / you / .
- 2 been / all / Petra / morning / had / cooking / .
- 3 before / she / Had / the / seen / film / ?
- 4 hadn't / enough / waiting / been / long / We / .
- 5 since / Had / lunch / Karen / working / time / been / ?
- 6 The / never / general / lost / a / before / battle / had / .
- 7 had / doing / Steve / day / What / been / all / ?
- 8 first / had / I / just / match / won / my / .
- 9 had / to / been / looking / test / We / forward / not / the / French / .
- 10 had / Chris / bus / he / missed / said / the / .

4 Write the missing words in the second sentence so it means the same as the first sentence.

- 1 Tennis became popular in the royal courts in the 14th century.
By the 14th century, tennis popular in the royal courts.
- 2 Monks were playing tennis inside their monasteries for ages before it became popular.
Before it became popular, monks had tennis inside their monasteries for ages.
- 3 One of Henry 8th's servants had to start the game for him because he got so fat.
Henry 8th of England too fat, so one of his servants had to start the game for him.
- 4 Players originally hit the ball with their hand, then they started using a racket.
Before players started using a racket, they the ball with their hand.
- 5 The game was very different before the modern game was invented in 1873.
The modern game was invented in 1873 and before that, it in lots of ways.
- 6 Women started competing in national games in about 1880.
By the 20th century, women in national games for about 20 years.

5 Write the missing word to complete the text.

When Diana was twelve she decided to take up dancing. She had 1) doing gymnastics classes 2) she was six, so she 3) very fit. She 4) won some medals with gymnastics, but she was beginning to get too tall to be really good at it. She had 5) to a couple of different kinds of dance classes, but she 6) found the kind she really wanted to study yet. Then she went to a hip-hop class, and she really loved it! The teacher was really cool, and Diana 7) been quite good at it. After a couple of months she had 8) learned how to spin around on her shoulders! Now they are thinking about doing a number at the dance festival in the summer.

Ability: *can, could, be able to*

GRAMMAR ZONE

can, able to

- we use **can** or **am/are/is able to** + verb for an ability to do something now

Martha **can speak** Russian and German.
She **is also able to speak** French.

- we also use this for a certain future ability

Tom **can come** camping with us next week.

could

- we use **could** or **was/were able to** + verb for an ability to do something in the past

Jack **couldn't understand** why he had failed the exam.

will be able to

- we use **will be able to** + verb for a possible ability in the future

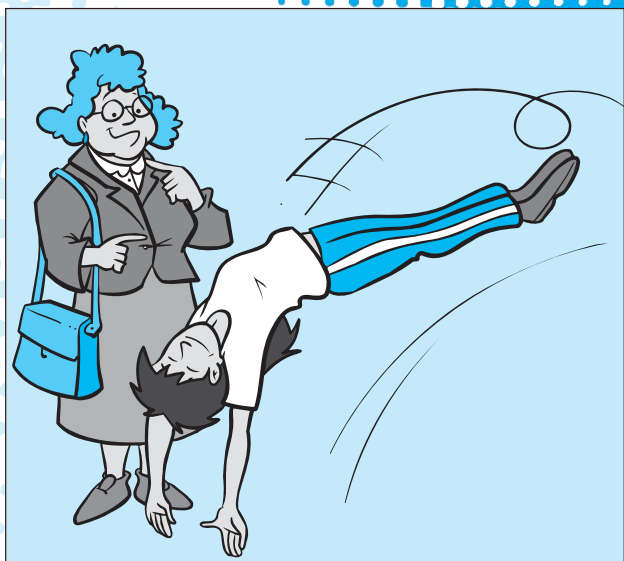
I hope I **will be able to finish** in time.

to be able to

- we use **to be able to** for the infinitive form. We often use this after verbs like **want, hope, would like, etc.**

Selena **hoped to be able to see** you before you left.
It's important **to be able to forgive**.

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'When I was young I **could do** a back flip too!'

1 Choose the best form of the verb to complete the sentences.

- Mrs Davis *can/be* able to give us a lift now her car's been repaired.
- Barbara hopes *being/to be* able to practise her German while she's in Austria.
- When the children were in the fifth year they *couldn't/can't* use the school shop at lunch time.
- Will/Are* you be able to record the show on Saturday for me?
- I looked everywhere this morning, but I *can't/couldn't* find that book that I borrowed from you.
- John's mother *couldn't/didn't* afford to pay for the skiing trip.
- Helen knows how to knit pretty well, but she *couldn't/can't* crochet.
- After trying three times, at last the climber *was/could* be able to reach the summit.

2 Write the missing word in the second sentence so it means the same as the first.

- It wasn't possible for girls to go to school in Ancient Roman times.
Girls go to school in ancient Roman times.
- Tina will be allowed to take her English exam a year early.
Tina take her English exam a year early.
- Jack learned how to tie his shoe laces when he was only three.
When he was only three, Jack tie his shoelaces.
- The library always opens at nine o'clock in the morning.
You use the library until nine o'clock in the morning.
- Sam is asking if he can have Friday off school this week.
Sam asks: '..... I be able to have Friday off school this week?'
- Oliver wants to play football much better.
Oliver wants to able to play football much better.
- It was just not possible for Ian to win the trophy this year.
Ian just able to win the trophy this year.
- Now we use carbon dating in archaeology we can tell how old things are.
We now able to tell how old things are, using carbon dating in archaeology.

Dates and times

1 Write the correct word from the list to complete the sentences.

millennium decade tenth AD
date fortnight 1970s century

- 1 My grandmother was born at the end of the nineteenth
- 2 In the between 1940 and 1950 the world changed in lots of ways.
- 3 What is the of the next parent's evening at school?
- 4 The new began on January 1, 2000.
- 5 Punk rock started in London in the
- 6 Vera is really happy because she's going on holiday for a this year.
- 7 October is the month of the year.
- 8 The Roman Emperor Justinian was born in 482

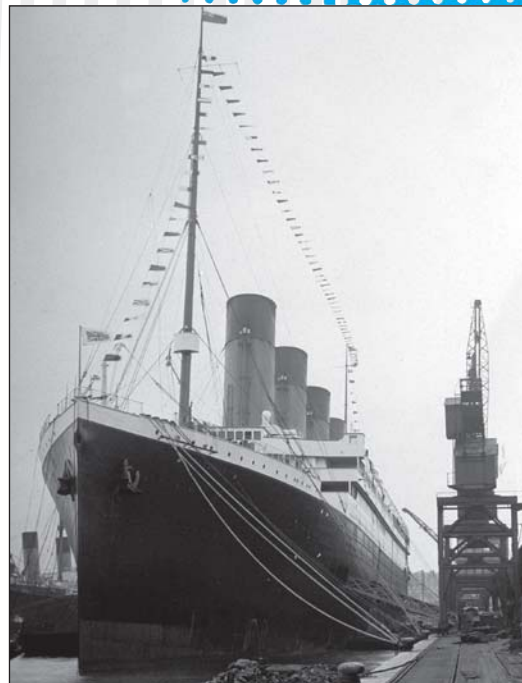
2 Choose the best word to complete the sentences.

- 1 At the *finish/end* of term, we all have to hand in our textbooks.
- 2 Are you going on holiday *in/at* July or August?
- 3 The actors should learn their lines *before/since* they go to the first rehearsal.
- 4 The drama club are having a meeting tomorrow, *in/at* lunchtime.
- 5 A lot of soldiers were out of work *after/after* the end of the war.
- 6 The match was really close, but, *in/at* the end, our team won.
- 7 In Britain the time is an hour *later/after* than the time in Spain.
- 8 The Eiffel Tower dates *at/from* the great exhibition in 1889.

3 Write the missing word or words in the second sentence so it means the same as the first.

- 1 The date the doomed ship, Titanic, left Portsmouth was 12/04/1912.
The doomed voyage of the Titanic started in Portsmouth on the
- 2 She was the largest passenger ship ever built, at that time.
No one had ever built such a big passenger ship
- 3 In the middle of her first voyage, she struck an iceberg.
She struck an iceberg her first voyage.
- 4 She hit the iceberg at 23.40, and sank at 02.20.
She hit the iceberg at 11.40 p.m. and sank two hours and forty minutes

- 5 There will be ceremonies around the world on 15th April 2012, which will be the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.
There are ceremonies planned around the world to commemorate a since the Titanic sank.



4 Write a time word, number or phrase in the gaps to complete the text.

The first inhabitants of what we now know as Germany had come from Scandinavia in about 100 BC. **1)** that time, of course, Germany was not one nation. The first account of the inhabitants of 'Germania' was written by Tacitus, a Roman historian, **2)** 98 BC. The tribes living in the south west became part of the Roman Empire, **3)** the tribes in the north east were independent, and lived on friendly terms with the Romans. At the beginning of the 4th **4)** AD the eastern people began to invade the Roman territory, and the Roman Empire had ceased to exist **5)** the late fifth century. One of the largest tribes, called the Franks, became more powerful and controlled what is **6)** western Germany and Italy. In AD 800 their leader, Charlemagne, was crowned Emperor in Rome. His Empire was so enormous that it was divided into three parts, and the people in the western area spoke a kind of French, while the people in the East spoke German. **7)** Charlemagne died his descendants ruled **8)** 911 AD, and then a Frankish King, called Konrad the first, was elected. This was possibly the beginning of modern Germany.

Use your English

1 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- Mr Carter is very annoyed with Angela because she never gets to work *at/on* time.
- Gary didn't do any football practice last term, because, *in/at* that time, he was studying very hard.
- Ian loves to *spend/have* time reading in his room.
- Learning a new language *uses/takes* a lot of time and hard work.
- The Frankish people attacked the Romans *from/at* time to time.
- Tina *wasted/used* a lot of time reading the wrong book for the course!
- Pete got to school just *on/in* time for assembly.
- It's important to *take/use* your time very carefully before exams.

2 Look at the timeline showing the history of Athens and write the missing word to complete the sentences.

The first Olympic games.	776 BC
Homer writes the Odyssey and the Iliad.	760–750 BC
Democracy in Athens.	508 BC
Perikles is leader of Athenian army.	462–429 BC
The Parthenon is built.	432 BC
Sparta defeats Athens.	404 BC
Rome defeats Greece.	146 BC

- Homer wrote the Iliad a long time Athens became a democracy.
- Perikles was a very popular leader 462 and 429 BC.
- the time he was in charge of the army, Athens became even more powerful.
- When Rome finally defeated Greece, Sparta had taken Athens.
- Athens was a democracy 508 BC until it was defeated by Rome.
- The Olympic games started in the 7th BC.
- Athens continued to be a democratic state its defeat.
- The Spartans won the war against Athens only 28 years the Parthenon was completed.

3 Choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D, to complete the sentences.

- Although ancient Athens was a democracy, women and slaves were not allowed to vote
A in this time **B** for the time
C at that time **D** during a time
- Girls did not go to school, and were usually married they were 13.
A by the time **B** since
C in the time **D** until
- Rich women had to run their households, and were allowed to work outside their homes.
A often **B** usually
C never **D** ever
- Poorer women their time working in the fields or in their family businesses.
A took **B** spent
C used **D** had
- Fortunately,, Athenian women have become much more powerful!
A until then **B** since now
C after the time **D** since then

4 Write the correct words to complete the text.



Princeton University has been one of the best Universities in the USA 1) it was founded 2) 1746. 3) the beginning it was very small. In fact, there were only six students in the first graduating class! 4) 1988 the numbers had risen to 6,000. It was originally called The College of New Jersey, and was in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Ten years 5), in 1756, a beautiful new building was constructed in Princeton for the college, called Nassau Hall, where all the students and tutors lived 6) the next fifty years. Towards the end of the 18th century it became nationally famous, and it became a University in 1896. Originally it was connected to the Presbyterian church, but 7) it doesn't have any connections to any church. Women were not allowed to study there 8) 1969, but in 2001 Shirley Tilghman became the 9) woman president of the University.

Exam practice

1 Write the correct words to complete the text.

Nelson Mandela was born at Qunu, near Umtata in South Africa, **1)** 18th July 1918. His father, Henry Mgadla Mandela, had also **2)** an important politician in his local area. Nelson went to University at Fort Hare, but he was thrown out for being involved in a student strike **3)** 1940. Fortunately he **4)** able to finish his Law degree by correspondence. He continued to work as a lawyer and he had set up the first black law firm in Johannesburg **5)** 1952. He worked there **6)** he was forced to move out of the city because of his political work. Most of the people he was helping were poor black people who **7)** own their own land, even though they **8)** been farming it for generations. Mandela refused to stop helping them and eventually he was arrested. **9)** 1953 and 1961 he was arrested and tried several times, but each time he was released. But eventually he was arrested and given life imprisonment. Because of political changes in South Africa, he was finally released on 11 February 1990, **10)** twenty-eight years in prison. In 1993 he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of all South Africans who suffered and sacrificed so much to bring peace to their land.

2 Write the correct words to complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first. Use the word given.

- It was often impossible for doctors to cure infections before penicillin was invented.
Before penicillin was invented, doctors often infections. CURE
- Death from pneumonia was very common until doctors started using antibiotics.
Patients from pneumonia before doctors started using antibiotics. DIED
- When World War II started, penicillin was already being used.
By the beginning of the war, penicillin was already being used. WORLD
- The number of deaths was about 12–15% less in World War II because of the use of antibiotics.
..... II the number of deaths was 12–15% less. WAR
- Scientists discovered how to make penicillin artificially between 1950 and 1953.
In the scientists discovered how to make penicillin artificially. EARLY

3 Choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D, to complete the sentences.

- My father beat my mother at chess, though he keeps on trying.
A can never B does never
C couldn't still D always can't
- The school was opened in 1910, but, , it was only for boys.
A in the moment B in the time
C at that time D during then
- Mrs Drake said she when our exams started.
A wasn't remembering B couldn't remember
C isn't able to remember D couldn't remembering
- A peaceful group of fisherman on the island before the Europeans landed there.
A has been B was lived
C were being D had been living
- Kerry absolutely loved computer games, and she a lot of time playing them when she was young.
A has given B had wasted
C took D was spending
- The playing field gets flooded , as it's right beside the river.
A at the times B by the time
C from time to time D time until time
- '..... to finish your essay by tomorrow?'
'Oh yes! I've already finished it.'
A Will you be able to B Are you being able to
C Could you D Can you
- That big house on the corner was built 19th century.
A in the middle B at the mid
C from the middle of D in the mid
- When the girls finally found the path, they three o'clock.
A were walking for B had been walking since
C were walking from D had walked at
- The film was really sad, but, , it all turned out happily.
A to the end B at the finish
C in the end D after all
- It can be very strange starting at a new school, but, , you will settle in.
A on time B from time to time
C in time D by the time
- Graham decided to start revising the exam twice!
A after he had failed
B before he was failing
C when he had been failing
D while failing