

# PAST TENSES FEEDBACK

Adapted from N. Frigolé.



- **Difficulties encountered:**
- Combination of past tenses
- Forms/usage of 'used to' and 'would'

Let's work on them!!

# PAST TENSES COMBINATIONS

Check the summary available on Moodle!

(UI past tenses overview)

## SIMPLE PAST

- **Events completed** at a **particular time** in the past and over now.

Yesterday we went on a trip to the mountain.

went                      now  
\_\_\_\_\_ x                      x \_\_\_\_\_

- **A completed action continuing** in the past and over now.

I lived in Canada for five months when I was a student.

lived                      now  
\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_

- **Series of events** in a story (no noticeable time gap)

That day was not special to me. I woke up, got up, had breakfast and stayed all day at home.

woke up    got up    had    stayed    now  
\_\_\_\_\_ x                      x                      x                      x                      x \_\_\_\_\_

- **Past habits** (*would* and *used to* are also possible).

When I was a child I played / would play / used to play with my friends in the street.

play                                      now  
\_\_\_\_\_ x \_ x \_ x \_ x \_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_

- **Indirect connection between two actions:**

I was surprised to see that lion staring at me AND I nearly fell off my bike.

I nearly fell off my bike BECAUSE I was surprised to see that lion staring at me.

was    fell  
\_\_\_\_\_ x    x \_\_\_\_\_

- **Two or more actions** in the past. No adverbs are needed because the order is clear I went to the supermarket and then I went home (NOT I ~~had been~~ to the supermarket and then I went home).

went    went  
\_\_\_\_\_ x    x \_\_\_\_\_

## PAST CONTINUOUS

- an **action happening when another one occurred**

I was having a shower when the telephone rang.

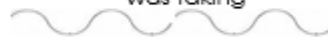
was having rang



- an **action going on for some time in the past**

Yeah, I remember that on those days I was taking German lessons.

was taking



- to **set the scene** for a story

The first week in Jamaica was wonderful. The sun was shining, the wind was blowing softly, and the sea was\* as blue as in any travel poster. Suddenly...

And...

- **two simultaneous activities**

I was staring at the sky while the wind was caressing my face.

was staring



was caressing



### PAST PERFECT

- **An action** that happened **before another one** in the past (**noticeable time gap** between the actions)

I was about to check in when I heard all flights had been cancelled.



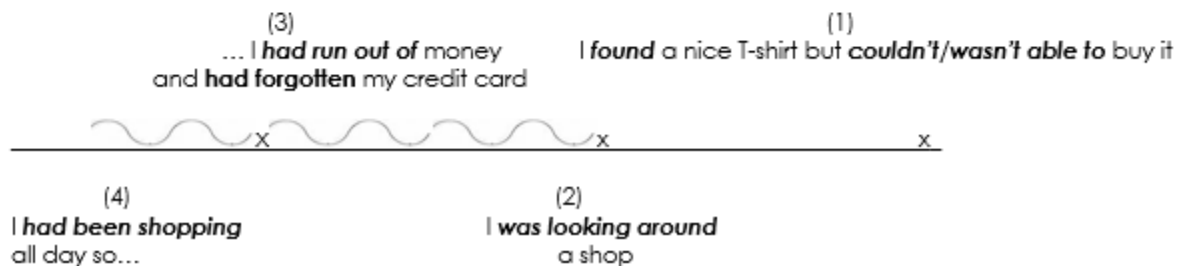
### NOTICE THE ORDER OF TENSES:

**After + past perfect:** After I had finished my homework I went out.

**Past perfect, before + past simple:** I had known him for 5 years **before** he became famous.

### PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- An action that happened before another action in the past and it lasts for some time: I had been shopping all day so I had run out of money. As I was looking around a shop, I found a nice t-shirt but couldn't/wasn't able to buy it because I had forgotten my credit card at home.



## PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS: USED TO EMPHASIZE THE DURATION OF AN ACTION

I had been waiting for 2 hours when he arrived.

Now, identify the verb tenses used in these sentences and explain the difference between them.

1. When I arrived home, my partner cooked dinner.
2. When I arrived home, my partner had cooked dinner.
3. When I arrived home, my partner was cooking dinner.

*Using one tense or another can make a great difference!!!*

Explain why the following answers are not correct:

**Complete the sentences using the Past simple, Past continuous or Past perfect.**

- While I  ✓ (clean) up my room, I  ✓ (find) some money that I  ✗ (lose) a few weeks earlier.

- We  ✓ (watch) a TV programme when we  ✓ (recognise) someone we  ✗ (not see) since we were at school.

- The teacher  ✗ (come) across a few careless mistakes while she  ✗ (check) some homework I  ✗ (do).

- Jane  ✗ (not phone) home for a week or so, so while she  ✗ (wait) for the bus, she  ✓ (call) her mother.

- I'm glad you  ✓ (like) his latest novel.  ✗ (you/read) any of his books before?



## Meeting at the station (Part 2)

As I ran down the road I hardly **(1)** *noticed / was noticing* that it **(2)** *snowed / was snowing*, and when I got to the station I **(3)** *kept / was keeping* on running until I reached the platform where I hoped to catch the train Sophie was leaving on. But it **(4)** *already went / had already gone*.

Furious with myself for missing her, I was about to leave the station when suddenly there was an announcement saying that so much snow **(5)** *fell / had fallen* this side of Upton Junction, the next station, that the line was blocked in both directions. Which meant that Sophie's train **(6)** *didn't go / wasn't going* anywhere, at least for a while.

I remembered there **(7)** *used to be / was being* a bus to Upton, but when I asked about it at the information office they told me it no longer went there. It **(8)** *was seeming / seemed* there was no way I could catch up with Sophie, and I left the station. But right outside I spotted a row of bicycles for hire.

Fortunately I **(9)** *'d been / 'd been going* to a cashpoint earlier and I had plenty of money on me, so I chose a bike and a few seconds later I **(10)** *would pedal / was pedalling* as fast as I could in the direction of Upton.

It was mostly uphill and the weather was very cold. By the time I **(11)** *was riding / 'd been riding* for 15 minutes my hands were frozen solid. There was both ice and snow on the road, and on one particularly sharp bend I completely lost control of the bike and **(12)** *crashed / was crashing* into a wall.

The front wheel was bent and I **(13)** *realised / was realising* immediately that I would have to continue on foot, but I could also see I **(14)** *cut / 'd cut* my leg quite badly in the accident. Leaving the damaged bike behind, I slowly and painfully **(15)** *walked / used to walk* the last four miles, eventually arriving in the small town of Upton at around ten o'clock. Just then I heard the train approaching.

I ran as fast as I **(16)** *could / 'd been able* to down the brightly lit but empty street that **(17)** *was leading / led* to the station, but seconds before I reached the platform the whistle blew and the train pulled out. With a feeling of sadness, I **(18)** *'d been watching / watched* its lights disappear into the darkness, and then stepped into the waiting room to get warm.

As I **(19)** *had done / did* so, a friendly voice to my left said 'Hi'. It was Sophie. 'I saw you from the train,' she said, 'so I **(20)** *was deciding / decided* to get off and wait for you. There's another train due here at eleven. Shall we get that one together?'

## Meeting at the station (Part 2)

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# USED TO & WOULD

“¿Solía”? “Acostumava a”?

# REMEMBER:

- 'Used to' works as any other verb in the past. So, no –d needed in the negative or question.  
Ex: I didn't USE to wear glasses back then.
- Questions: Did you used to wear glasses when you were younger? USE – NO <d>
- 'Would' can ONLY be used with ACTION verbs. What's the difference between an action and a stative verbs?
- It is rare to find "would" in negative and question forms. Plus, you always need complete context for it to be correct.
- You can translate 'used to' and 'would' as –ava or -ia (and now I don't do that action anymore).

Choose the correct alternative. In two sentences, both answers are correct.

When I was younger...

- I   be more rebellious than I am now.
- I   spend weekends visiting my aunt.
- We   stop at the beach every day after school in summer.
- I   play the piano.
- I   live in a small apartment.

Always been taught that WOULD was only a conditional? Sorry guys, but that's not true!!

'Used to' & 'would' activity



This is my friend Mike. He now leads a very different life from before. Do you know why?

'Used to' & 'would' activity



## **Student A**

You are Mike. A reporter from HI! Magazine is going to interview you about life before and after your operation. Think about the following things before you speak:

**What you used to/would do as a woman (that you don't do any longer). Write at least one sentence in the affirmative and one in the negative form.**

Answer:

**What you used to look like and how you used to dress. Write at least one sentence in the affirmative and one in the negative form.**

Answer:

**What you prefer about being a man.**

Answer:

## **Student B**

You are a reporter from HI! Magazine. You are going to interview Mike about life before and after his operation. Find out about the following things. **Write the questions:**

**What he used to/would do as a woman (that he doesn't do any longer).**

Question:

**What he used to look like and how he used to dress.**

Question:

**What he prefers about being a man.**

Question: