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!
(U1 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.
  
  \[ \text{went} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{now} \quad \text{x} \]

- **A completed action continuing** in the past and over now.
  
  I **lived** in Canada for five months when I was a student.
  
  \[ \text{lived} \quad \text{now} \quad \text{x} \]

- **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.
  
  \[ \text{woke up} \quad \text{got up} \quad \text{had} \quad \text{stayed} \quad \text{now} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \]

- **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.
  
  \[ \text{play} \quad \text{now} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \]

- **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.
  
  \[ \text{was} \quad \text{fell} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \]

- **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).
  
  \[ \text{went} \quad \text{went} \quad \text{x} \quad \text{x} \]
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 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 was cleaning ✓ (clean) up my room, I found ✓ (find) some money that I lost ✗ (lose) a few weeks earlier.

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

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

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

- I'm glad you liked ✓ (like) his latest novel. You had read ✗ (you/read) any of his books before?
Meeting at the station (Part 2)

As I ran down the road I hardly noticed that it snowed, and when I got to the station I kept running until I reached the platform where I hoped to catch the train Sophie was leaving on. But it already went.

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

I remembered there used to be a bus to Upton, but when I asked about it at the information office they told me it no longer went there. It was seeming 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'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 would pedal as fast as I could in the direction of Upton.

It was mostly uphill and the weather was very cold. By the time I was riding, 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 crashed into a wall.

The front wheel was bent and I realised immediately that I would have to continue on foot, but I could also see I cut my leg quite badly in the accident. Leaving the damaged bike behind, I slowly and painfully walked 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 could down the brightly lit but empty street that was leading to the station, but seconds before I reached the platform the whistle blew and the train pulled out. With a feeling of sadness, I'd been watching its lights disappear into the darkness, and then stepped into the waiting room to get warm.

As I had done, a friendly voice to my left said 'Hi! It was Sophie. 'I saw you from the train,' she said, 'so I was deciding 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)

As I ran down the road I hardly noticed that it was snowing and when I got to the station I was keeping on running until I reached the platform where I hoped to catch the train Sophie was leaving on. But it already went.

Furious with myself for missing her, I was about to leave the station when suddenly there was an announcement saying that so much snow fell his side of Upton Junction, the next station, that the line was blocked in both directions. Which meant that Sophie’s train wasn’t going anywhere, at least for a while.

I remembered there used to be a bus to Upton, but when I asked about it at the information office they told me it no longer went there. It 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’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 would pedal as fast as I could in the direction of Upton.

It was mostly uphill and the weather was very cold. By the time I was 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 crashed into a wall.

The front wheel was bent and I realised immediately that I would have to continue on foot, but I could also see I cut my leg quite badly in the accident. Leaving the damaged bike behind, I slowly and painfully 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 could to down the brightly lit but empty street that was leading to the station, but seconds before I reached the platform the whistle blew and the train pulled out. With a feeling of sadness, I’d been watching its lights disappear into the darkness, and then stepped into the waiting room to get warm.

As I’d been doing, a friendly voice to my left said ‘Hi’. It was Sophie. ‘I saw you from the train,’ she said, ‘so I was deciding to get off and wait for you. There’s another train due here at eleven. Shall we get that one together?’
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 **used to** ✅ be more rebellious than I am now.
- I **would** ✗ spend weekends visiting my aunt.
- We **would** ✗ stop at the beach every day after school in summer.
- I **both** ✗ play the piano.
- I **both** ✗ live in a small apartment.
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: