tense contrasts

- past simple:
  decided

- past continuous:
  was looking

- past perfect simple:
  had happened

- past perfect continuous:
  had been working

**WE CAN use past simple, past continuous and past perfect for events in a narrative (story).**
Also…

**Past simple** to describe actions or states in the past.

- *That afternoon he decided to check the old experiments.*

**Past continuous** to describe continuing actions, or to set the scene.

- *While he was looking at them …*
Use past perfect when we need to make clear that one past action happened before another past action.

- …he noticed that something unusual had happened ...
- …while he had been working on the new experiments....
Past simple and Past continuous

- **past simple**: What did you do?
- **past continuous**: What were you doing?

We **were** in a maths lesson.

Water **started** dripping from the ceiling.

We **changed** rooms.

What **were** you **doing**? (when something happened)

We **were writing** a test.

What **did** you **do**? (an action)

We **changed** rooms.
present perfect simple and continuous:
has won, has been winning.

past perfect simple and continuous:
had won, had been playing.
Present perfect events are connected to the present in some way.

Past perfect events are past events that take place before other past events.
A. She has just won the Grand Slam. She has been playing tennis for only six years.
B. When Anna won the Grand Slam in 2001, she had been playing tennis for only six years.

A. (She plays now - she started six years ago.)
B. (All the events are in the past: she won in 2001, she started playing six years before that.)
Choose the correct form

How a *do you get on* / *are you getting on* in Paris? Sorry b *I haven't written* / *I'm not writing* before but c *I train* / *I've been training* hard for my basketball team. We d *played* / *have played* in a tournament last week - we e *come* / *came* third! I really f *enjoy* / *enjoyed* taking part, but g *I haven't done* / *I wasn't doing* anything else for the past month.
answers
a are you getting on
b I haven't written
c I've been training
d played
e came
f enjoyed
g I haven't done
past simple: discovered

present perfect: have discovered
Use **past simple** for finished events in the past. We can use a definite date or time.

*I came to Italy in 2000.*

Use **present perfect** for recent events without a definite time.

*Astronomers have discovered a new planet recently they have named it Frank.*
We can use *since* + point in time with *present perfect* but not with *past simple*.

I've been here since 8.30 (I'm still here.)

We can use *for* + period of time with *present perfect* for **unfinished time**, or *past simple* for **finished time**.

I've been in the team for two years. (I'm still in the team.)

I was in the team for two years. (Finished - I'm not in the team now.)
present perfect simple: have taken

present perfect continuous: have been taking

- Use **present perfect simple** when an action has recently finished.
- Use **present perfect continuous** to describe a continuing action up to the present moment.

*Have you taken your medicine?* (Just now or very recently)

*Have you been taking your medicine?* (over a long period up to now)
Present perfect continuous can suggest that the action might continue into the future.

- *I've done a lot of work lately* (but now I've finished)
- *I've been doing a lot of work lately* (and it is still going on)
present perfect simple and continuous: have lived, have been living

present simple and continuous: live, am living

Use present perfect to describe a period of time that continues up to the present, and includes the present.

- How long have you been living here? (We don't say How long are you living here?)
- I've been here since 2002. (We don't say I am here since 2002.)
HOMEWORK

- The ‘greatest’ moment of my life.
present simple, present continuous: have, am having

Use present simple for facts, things that always happen, habits, permanent situations and state meanings.

- Rabbits live in holes in the ground. I travel to work by bus.
- I enjoy Italian food. I have three sisters.
Use **present continuous** for events that are happening at the moment, or are changing, temporary situations and for action meanings.

- **Things are getting better.**
- **I'm having a great time.**
- **It's raining.**
- **I'm really enjoying this party**
a. When the police stopped / were stopping Smith's car for a routine check, they realized that he was the man who robbed / had robbed the bank.

b. I woke up in the middle of the night and turned on / was turning on the light. Someone or something climbed / was climbing in my window!

c. Unfortunately Jan arrived / was arriving at the station at 3.25, and found that she missed / had missed the train.

d. The doctors tried / had been trying their best, but while they were performing the operation, the patient died / was dying.

e. We'd been watching the film for half an hour before we realized that we were making / had made a terrible mistake. We went / had gone into the wrong cinema!

f. On the morning of the accident, Mr Davis just finished / had just finished a night shift at a local factory, and didn't have / hadn't had any sleep for 24 hours.
I'm sorry I didn't answer / wasn’t answering the phone earlier, but I was painting / had been painting the ceiling in my bedroom.

The office Marlowe was visiting was on the 15th floor, and unfortunately the lift wasn’t working / hadn't been working, so by the time he arrived at the top of the stairs, he was / had been out of breath.

On Christmas morning when they woke up / were waking up, the children looked eagerly out of the window. It snowed / had been snowing, and the garden was covered in a thick white carpet.

After the two film stars landed / were landing at the small airport, they left quickly in a van that was waiting / had been waiting for them since the early morning.
Answers:

a stopped, had robbed
b turned on, was climbing
c arrived, had missed
d tried, died
e had made, had gone
f had just finished, hadn't had
g didn't answer, was painting
h wasn't working, was i woke up, had been snowing
j landed, had been waiting
Mozart was born in 1756, the son of a professional musician. His father soon a (give up) composing when he recognized his son's musical talent. By the age of three, the young Mozart b (learn) to play several pieces of music. While he and his father c (travel) round Europe, Mozart met many famous musicians and composers. Before he was 17, he d (compose) several operas. While he e (visit) the Vatican in Rome, he f (listen) to a piece of music which, up to this point, the Vatican authorities g (keep) secret.
No one h (publish) ____ a copy of the piece before, but Mozart i (manage) ____ to write it down from memory after he j (listen) ____ to it once. By the age of 30 he k (become) ____ one of the most famous composers in Europe, and I (have) ____ a large apartment in Vienna, which is now a tourist attraction. It was here that he m (write) ____ his famous opera *The Marriage of Figaro*. In 1791, while he n (work) ____ on his *Requiem*, he o (fall) ____ ill and died at the age of 35.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Answers</th>
<th></th>
<th>Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>gave up</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>managed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>had learned</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>had listened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>were travelling</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>had become</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>had composed</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>was visiting</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>wrote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>listened</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>was working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>had kept</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>fell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unfortunately, when Sarah's big day had arrived/was arriving, things had gone/went disastrously wrong at first. For a start, it was raining/has been raining and as the traffic was so heavy, she had arrived/was arriving nearly ten minutes late for her interview. Then while she was crossing/has crossed the road, a passing bus had splashed/was splashing her with water. But inside the building her luck had changed/has changed. 'Mr Fortescue is expecting/has expected me,' she was telling/told the receptionist. 'He hasn't arrived/doesn't arrive yet,' she was told. 'Just take a seat.' Perhaps everything would be all right after all!
answers

h arrived
i went
j was raining
k arrived
l was crossing
m splashed
n changed
o is expecting
p told
q hasn’t arrived
An art historian r has discovered / is discovering two missing paintings by Fra Angelico (c 1395 - 1455) in the home of a pensioner from Oxford who s has died / died earlier this year. Jean Preston t bought / has bought the paintings when she u was working / has been working in America in the 1960s. Shortly before her death, a friend v recognized / has recognized them as part of a group of six small paintings which Angelico w painted / has painted in 1439. Miss Preston x paid / was paying about £200 for the pair, but experts y say / said they are now worth around £1 million.
answers

r has discovered
s died
t bought
u was working
v recognized
w painted
x paid
y say
Writing

A magazine is running a competition called ‘Memoirs’. Readers are asked to send in stories of 120 -180 words about (a) significant event(s) in their (early) childhood. Write a story.

Useful words and expressions
at the time – by chance – I clearly remember – I now realise – in those days – luckily – one day – there was/were – unfortunately – when I was X years old