

1.2 Present and past habits

To talk about someone's habits and typical behaviour, we can use:

- the Present Simple or the Past Simple, to talk about repeated present or past actions or states:
*When I **get** home, I **do** my homework and then **practise** the violin.*
*My grandfather **picked me up** from school every day.*
- *used to* + infinitive to talk about states (e.g. with the verbs *be, have, believe, like*) or actions that happened regularly in the past but are no longer happening in the present. We do not use this structure to talk about single past actions:
*When I was your age, I **used to be** very eager to learn.*
*I **didn't use to fall behind** with my schoolwork.*
*Did you **use to like** Chemistry?*
- *would* + infinitive to talk about past actions or behaviour typical for someone (but not states):
*Our Maths teacher **would give** us loads of homework.*
- *will* + infinitive to talk about present actions or typical behaviour (but not states):
*She **'ll watch** TV or play games all day instead of studying for her exams.*
Note: We do not use the verbs *will/would* in this meaning in questions.
- the Present Continuous or Past Continuous with the adverb *always* to complain about someone's behaviour:
*She's **always putting** things off and is never on time.*
*My neighbours **were always complaining** about the noise.*

Choose the correct options.

- 1 When Marek and I shared a room in a hall of residence, he was *always borrowing* / *will always borrow* my things without asking.
- 2 When I was a kid, I *would believe* / *used to believe* that my dad was a spy.
- 3 *Did you use to like* / *Would you like* your primary school?
- 4 It's so annoying! She *will always lose* / *is always losing* her notebook.
- 5 Martha *would ask* / *was asking* the teacher plenty of questions after every lesson. She was very curious.
- 6 I always *forget* / *will forget* to bring a pen. Can I borrow one of yours?

1.5 Verb patterns

These are the most common verb patterns:

- verb + to-infinitive, e.g. *agree, arrange, can't afford, decide, intend, learn, manage, offer, prefer, refuse, remember, seem, tend*:
*I **decided to leave** school and find a job.*
*My sister **agreed to help** me with my homework.*
- verb + object + to-infinitive, e.g. *advise, allow, cause, enable, encourage, expect, force, remind, urge, warn*:
*Robert's mother **encouraged him to study** Law.*
*The teacher **reminded us not to use** our mobile phones during lessons.*
- verb + object + infinitive without *to*, e.g. *make, let*:
*Do his parents **let him hang out** with his friends?*
*My parents used to **make me do** a lot of house chores.*
- verb + -ing form, e.g. *admit, avoid, can't help, can't stand, enjoy, fancy, imagine, keep, miss, practise, spend/waste time, stop*:
*I **can't stand wearing** a school uniform.*
*She recently **stopped eating** fast food, and she feels better already.*
- verb + -ing form/to-infinitive:
After the verbs *begin, continue, hate, intend, like, love, prefer* and *start* we can use both the -ing form and the to-infinitive. The meaning stays the same or changes very slightly:
*I **started playing** chess. I **started to play** chess.*
*He **intends using** the school website. He **intends to use** the school website.*

Change in meaning

- After the verbs *remember, forget, stop* and *try* we can use both the -ing form and the to-infinitive. However, the meaning of the sentence changes:
*Jenny **remembers locking** the door.* (She remembers that she locked the door.)
*Jenny **remembers to lock** the door.* (She always remembers to lock the door.)
*Dad'll **forget giving** me the money.* (He will forget that he gave me the money.)
*Dad'll **forget to give** me the money.* (He hasn't given me the money and he'll forget to do it.)
*Liz **stopped drinking** coffee.* (Liz doesn't drink coffee anymore.)
*Liz **stopped to drink** some coffee.* (Liz stopped doing something in order to drink coffee.)
*I **tried turning** the computer **off** and **on** again, but it didn't help.* (I tried this as an experiment to see if it would work).
*I **tried to turn** the computer **off**, but the shutdown command **didn't** work.* (I made an effort to turn the computer off).

- We use *feel, hear, see, watch* + infinitive without *to* when we want to say that we saw the whole action from beginning to end:

*I **watched** Mary **paint** a picture. (I saw Mary start on the painting, paint it and finish painting.)*

- We use *feel, hear, see, watch* + *-ing* form when we witness only a part of the action:

*I **watched** Mary **painting** a picture. (Mary was painting a picture when I saw her.)*

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first, using the word in capitals. Do not change the word in capitals.

- You're looking for volunteers? You could put a poster up in the school. **TRIED**
Have you _____ a poster in the school?
- It's really important that you hand in your assignment on Friday. **REMEMBER**
You must _____ your assignment on Friday.
- Would John like to come to the concert on Sunday? **FANCY**
Does John _____ the concert on Sunday?
- I told him that dropping Spanish was a bad idea. **ENCOURAGED**
I _____ Spanish.
- Those boots are much too expensive for me to buy. **AFFORD**
I _____ those boots.
- Jake has been forbidden from using his dad's computer. **ALLOWED**
Jake _____ his dad's computer.
- Janice doesn't go to dance class anymore. She quit two weeks ago. **STOPPED**
Janice _____ two weeks ago.

2.2

Past Perfect Simple and Continuous

Past Perfect Simple

We use the Past Perfect Simple:

- to talk about actions that happened before a particular time or event in the past (for which we usually use the Past Simple):

*When I arrived at the wedding reception, the bride's father **had** already **made** his speech.*

*By the age of sixteen, he **had learnt** to speak three foreign languages.*

- to talk about states that were true or happening before a particular time in the past:

*When my parents got married, they **had known** each other for fifteen years.*

Past Perfect Continuous

We use the Past Perfect Continuous to talk about actions that were in progress up to a particular time in the past (or finished shortly before it):

*The guests **had been waiting** in front of the church for forty minutes before the bus picked them up.*

*We **hadn't been thinking** about selling the house, but then we got this great offer.*

*How long **had** you **been watching** me before I woke up?*

Affirmative	Negative
I/You/He/ She/It/ We/They	I/You/ He/ She/ It/We/ They
had been	hadn't been (had not been)
sleeping.	sleeping.
Yes/No questions	Short answers
I/you/he/ she/it/we/ they	Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they had . No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they hadn't .
Had	
been sleeping?	
Wh- questions	Subject questions
How long	Who
I/you/he/ she/it/we/ they	had been sleeping?
had	had been sleeping?
been sleeping?	

Past Perfect Simple vs Past Perfect Continuous

- We use the Past Perfect Simple:
 - to talk about finished actions:

*My father **had visited** his Scottish relatives twice before he finally went to live with them.*
 - to talk about states using stative verbs, e.g. *be, have, know, see, believe*:

*I **had** never **seen** such a magnificent church before I visited St Paul's Cathedral.*
- We use the Past Perfect Continuous to talk about actions but not states. We stress the duration of the action rather than the result:

*We **had been waiting** for three hours when they finally arrived.*