PAST TENSES REVIEW (Unit 2)

PRESENT PERFECT OR PAST SIMPLE?

Present perfect:
- doesn’t mention time (already, yet)
- is recent past (recently, lately)
- is connected to the present (just)
- goes from past to present (since/for, ever/never, always/... up now/... before, How long?)

Simple past:
- mentions time (yesterday, ....ago, last week, in July, in 2000, in the past...)
- is finished past

A

1. He (leave / just) has just left his house.
2. We (build) built a tree house last week.
3. Two years ago, Fiona (break) broke her leg.
4. I (wash / already) have already washed the dishes.
5. The other day, our cat (bring) brought home a mouse.

B

1. We (empty / not) didn’t empty the bin last week.
2. She (be / not) wasn’t there an hour ago.
3. He (lose / not) hasn’t lost any game so far.
4. My brother (pick / not) picked me up at 8 o’clock.
5. I (make / not) haven’t made up my mind yet.

C

1. (you / see) have you seen Bob recently?
2. Who (switch) switched off the lights a minute ago?
3. When (she / become) did she become a teacher?
4. (you / ride / ever) have you ever ridden an elephant?
5. (you / hurt) did you hurt your knee when you were playing football?

D

1. Last week I (be) was very busy and I (have not) didn’t have the time to do a lot in the household.
2. On Monday I **worked** three hours overtime and **came** home very late in the evening.

3. From Tuesday to Thursday I **was** on a business trip.

4. On Friday I **went** to a friend’s birthday party and at the weekend I **visited** my grandparents.

5. Tomorrow some friends are coming over. I **haven't seen** them for ages and they **have never been** at my place before.

6. I **have just cleaned** my house so I can show them around. Now everything is perfect.

**PAST CONTINUOUS OR PAST SIMPLE?**

**Past continuous:**
- long action in progress
- long action interrupted by a shorter action in past simple
- It offers background information in a story
- Introduced by while/as/when
- "At two o’clock..."

**Simple past:**
- short action
- interrupts a longer action in past continuous
- Sequence of events in a story
- Introduced by when
- In questions with When?

- While Tom **was reading** a documentary on TV, Amely **was watching** a documentary on TV.
- Marvin **came** home, switched **on** the computer and **checked** his emails.
- The thief **sneaked** into the house, **stole** the jewels and **left** without a trace.
- Nobody **was listening** while the teacher **explained** the tenses.
- While we **were doing** a sight-seeing tour, our friends **were lying** on the beach.
- He **woke** up and **looked** at his watch.
- I **was jogging** in the park, when two squirrels **crossed** my way.
- Robert **fell** off the ladder when he **was picking** cherries.
- Archimedes **discovered** the theory of buoyancy while he **was taking** a bath.
- When we **were travelling** around Ireland, we **met** some very nice people.
- While she **was speaking** on the phone, the milk **boiled** over.
- When I **left** the house this morning, the sun **was shining**.
Caroline burnt her hand when she was ironing her clothes.

A: »What were you doing yesterday at 8 pm?«
B: »I was sitting in the pub with Sam. Why?«
A: »I was driving to the sports centre at that time to play squash with a few friends. As we were only three players, I tried to ring you to ask if you would like to come as well. But I didn't reach you at home.«
B: »Why didn't you ring my mobile?«
A: »I actually wanted to ring your mobile, but by accident I dialled William's number. He wasn't doing anything special at that moment and really liked the idea of playing squash with us.«

PAST PERFECT OR PAST SIMPLE?

Past perfect:

• the first of two actions in the past
• ...before, for/since/already/yet/never/ever (like Present perfect)

Simple past:

• the second of two actions in the past

NOTE: it is common to find the following time expressions with PAST PERFECT and/or PAST SIMPLE. You have to think which of the two actions is happening in the first place. Then you use the time expressions to link the sentences.
Before = antes de que
After = después de que
Until = hasta que
By the time = para cuando (introduces past simple)
As soon as = tan pronto como
Once = una vez que
When

1. William (live) had lived in Boston for six years before he (move) moved to New York.
2. The blue car (cross) crossed the street after the lights (turn) had turned red.
3. When James (try) tried to ring us, we (leave / already) had already left the house.
4. After Joanna (finish) had finished her presentation, we (ask) asked our questions.
5. On her first day at the driving school, we (be) were very nervous because we (drive / not) hadn't driven a car before.
B

1. Yesterday a boy destroyed the snowman that we had built.

2. Jimmy told us about the film that he had seen.

3. We found the mobile phone that Marwin had lost.

4. He sang a song that I had never heard before.

5. Cathrine opened the window that I had just closed.

6. When he woke up, his mother had already prepared breakfast.

7. We went to London because the Queen had invited us for tea.

8. He heard the news, went to the telephone and called a friend.

9. When she started to learn English, she had already learnt French.

10. Jane had already typed ten pages when her computer crashed.

11. By the time he arrived at the pub, they had run out of beer.

12. Before that day we had never thought of going to Japan.

13. I had known him for a long time before I met his family.

14. They didn't know where to meet because nobody had told them.

15. It had been cloudy for days before it finally began to rain.

C

1. The student was late. By the time he had entered the classroom, the lesson had already started (already/start).

3. As soon as the bell rang, we left the classroom.

4. After the lesson had finished, we had a break.

5. Before we went home for lunch, we had had six lessons.

D

JOIN THE SENTENCES USING THE TIME EXRESSIONS IN BRACKETS and past perfect or simple past.

1. They install the file. They can go on working. (ONCE)
   Once they had installed the file, they could go on working.

2. He take up a job. He already/leave school. (BY THE TIME)
   By the time he took up a job, he had already left school.

3. William fall ill last night. He eat too many cakes. (BECAUSE)
   William fell ill last night because he had eaten too many cakes.

4. He arrive at the party. Julie already/leave. (WHEN)
   When he arrived at the party, Julie had already left.

5. I know my husband for three years. We get married. (BY THE TIME)
   By the time I got married, I had known my husband for three years.
6. I (go) to his birthday party. I (buy) a birthday present for Brad.
   (BEFORE)
   Before I went to his party, I had bought a birthday .......... 

7. She (fall) in love with Bob. They (meet) in Cork. (AFTER)
   She fell in love with Bob after they had met in Cork

8. They (eat) almost all the sandwiches. He (arrive) home for dinner. (BEFORE)
   They had eaten almost all the sandwiches before he arrived home for dinner.