

# G1 Past tenses

There are three tenses in English that refer to the past: present perfect, past tense and past perfect. Each of them has a **simple** and a **progressive** form.

Present perfect	
I <b>have</b> already <b>washed</b> the dishes.	→ This stresses the result of an activity. Often with: <i>already, (not) yet, so far, ever, never.</i>
You've <b>been sleeping</b> for hours.	→ This indicates that an activity began in the past and has continued until now. Often with: <i>for, since.</i>

Past	
We <b>read</b> 'The Hate U Give' at school last year.	→ This indicates that the event is over. Often with: <i>last ..., ... ago, yesterday, in 2010, etc.</i>
While we <b>were watching</b> TV, it started raining.	→ This describes an activity that was in progress in the past. Often with: <i>while.</i>

Past perfect	
After we <b>had finished</b> eating, I started doing the dishes.	→ This describes an activity that happened before another activity in the past. Often with: <i>after, when.</i>
I <b>had only been watching</b> TV for a few minutes, when my mother came home.	→ This describes an activity that was in progress before another activity in the past. Often with: <i>for, since.</i>