Unit 10

Present perfect continuous and simple (I have been doing and I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



There is paint on Kate's clothes.

She has been painting her bedroom.

Has been painting is the *present perfect continuous*.

We are thinking of the activity. It does not matter whether it has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the bedroom) has not been finished.



Her bedroom was green. Now it is yellow. She **has painted** her bedroom.

Has painted is the *present perfect simple*.

Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. **Has painted** is a completed action. We are interested in the result of the activity (the painted bedroom), not the activity itself.

г		
ı	ж.	
ı	_	

Compare these examples:

- My hands are very dirty. I've been repairing my bike.
- O Joe has been eating too much recently.
 He should eat less.
- It's nice to see you again. What have you been doing since we last met?
- Where have you been? Have you been playing tennis?
- My bike is OK again now. I've repaired it.
- Somebody has eaten all the chocolates. The box is empty.
- Where's the book I gave you? What have you done with it?
- Have you ever played tennis?

C

We use the continuous to say *how long* (for something that is still happening):

- How long have you been reading that book?
- Lisa is writing emails. She's been writing emails all morning.
- They've been playing tennis since 2 o'clock.
- I'm learning Arabic, but I haven't been learning it very long.

We use the simple to say how much, how many or how many times:

- How much of that book have you read?
- Lisa is writing emails. She's sent lots of emails this morning.
- They've played tennis three times this week.
- I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't learnt** very much yet.

D

Some verbs (for example, know/like/believe) are not normally used in the continuous:

- I've known about the problem for a long time. (not I've been knowing)
- How long **have** you **had** that camera? (not have you been having)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 17.

But note that you can use want and mean in the present perfect continuous:

I've been meaning to phone Jane, but I keep forgetting.

Present perfect simple → Units 7–8 Present perfect continuous → Unit 9
Present perfect + for/since → Units 11–12

Exercises

1	Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is stil	l reading it and now he is on page 53.
•	He has been reading for two hours. (read)	a reading to alle how the is on page 55.
	He has read 53 pages so far. (read)	
2	Rachel is from Australia. She is travelling round Euro months ago.	pe at the moment. She began her trip three
		for three months. (travel)
		six countries so far. (visit)
3	Patrick is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when national championship again – for the fourth tim	
	t	he national championship four times. (win)since he was ten. (play)
1	When they left college, Lisa and Sue started making	
	They	
c	or each situation, ask a question using the words in b	orackets.
1	You have a friend who is learning Arabic. You ask:	
	(how long / learn / Arabic?) How long have you	
2	You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting	
_	(wait / long?) Have	
3	You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask: (catch / any fish?)	
1	Some friends of yours are having a party next week.	
T	(how many people / invite?)	
5	A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:	
	(how long / teach?)	
5	You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:	
	(how many books / write?)	
	(how long / write / books?)	
7	A friend of yours is saving money to go on a world tri	
	(how long / save?)	
	(how much money / save?)	
	at the verb into the more suitable form, present per	fect simple (I have done) or continuous
•	have been doing).	
	Where have you been? Have you been playing	
	Look! (sor	
	You look tired. (you / ever	
	'Liz is away on holiday.' 'Is she? Where	
	My brother is an actor.	
	'Sorry I'm late.' 'That's all right.	
	'Is it still raining?' 'No,	
	(I / lose) my phone.	
	it anywhere?	
0	(I / read) th	
	(I / not / finish) it	
1	(I / read) the book	you lent me, so you can have it back now. (I / have) it since I was a child.

Unit

How long have you (been) ...?

Study this example situation:



Dan and Jenny are married. They got married exactly 20 years ago, so today is their 20th wedding anniversary.

They have been married for 20 years. We say: They **are** married. (present)

How long have they **been** married? (present perfect) (not How long are they married?) They have been married for 20 years. (not They are married for 20 years)

We use the present perfect to talk about something that began in the past and still continues now. Compare the *present* and the *present perfect*: present Paul is in hospital. he is He's been in hospital since Monday. (= He has been ...) but do you know (not Paul is in hospital since Monday) she is waiting Do you know each other well? but Have you known each other for a long time? present perfect (not Do you know) he has been She's waiting for somebody. have you known but She's been waiting all morning. she has been waiting Do they have a car? past now How long have they had their car? but I have known/had/lived etc. is the present perfect simple. I have been learning / been waiting / been doing etc. is the present perfect continuous.

В When we ask or say 'how long', the continuous is more usual (see Unit 10): I've been learning English for six months. It's been raining since lunchtime. Richard has been doing the same job for 20 years. 'How long have you been driving?' 'Since I was 17.' Some verbs (for example, know/like/believe) are not normally used in the continuous: How long have you known Jane? (not have you been knowing)

I've had a pain in my stomach all day. (not I've been having)

See also Units 4A and 10C. For have, see Unit 17.

You can use either the present perfect continuous or simple with live and work: Julia has been living / has lived here for a long time. How long have you been working / have you worked here?

But use the simple (I've lived / I've done etc.) with always:

I've always lived in the country. (not always been living)

We say 'I haven't done something since/for ...' (present perfect simple):

☐ I haven't seen Tom since Monday. (= Monday was the last time I saw him)

Sarah hasn't phoned for ages. (= the last time she phoned was ages ago)

I haven't ... since/for → Unit 8B

Present perfect continuous → Units 9–10

For and since → Unit 12A

D

Exercises

11.1 A	re the <u>underlined</u> verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.	
	Ben is a friend of mine. <u>I know him</u> very well. <u>OK</u>	
2	Ben is a friend of mine. <u>I know him</u> for a long time. <u>I've known him</u>	
3	Sarah and Adam <u>are married</u> since July.	
	The weather is awful. It's raining again.	
	The weather is awful. It's raining all day.	
	I like your house. How long <u>are you living</u> there?	
	Gary <u>is working</u> in a shop for the last few months.	
	<u>I don't know</u> Tom well. We've only met a few times.	
	I gave up drinking coffee. I don't drink it for a year.	
10	That's a very old bike. How long <u>do you have</u> it?	
11.2 R	ead the situations and write questions from the words in brackets.	
1	A friend tells you that Paul is in hospital. You ask him:	
	(how long / be / in hospital?) How long has Paul been in hospital?	
2	You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:	
	(how long / teach / English?)	
3	You know that Jane is a good friend of Katherine's. You ask Jane:	
	(how long / know / Katherine?)	
4	Your friend's brother went to Australia some time ago and he's still there. You ask your friend:	
	(how long / be / in Australia?)	
5	Tom always wears the same jacket. It's a very old jacket. You ask him:	
	(how long / have / that jacket?)	
6	You are talking to a friend about Joe. Joe now works at the airport. You ask your friend:	
	(how long / work / at the airport?)	
7	A friend of yours is having guitar lessons. You ask him:	
	(how long / have / guitar lessons?)	
8	You meet somebody on a plane. She says that she lives in Chicago. You ask her:	
	(always / live / in Chicago?)	

11.3 Complete B's answers to A's questions.

	7 A
1	Paul is in hospital, isn't he?
2	Do you see Ann very often?
2 3 4 5	Is Amy married?
4	Are you waiting for me?
	You know Mel, don't you?
6	Do you still play tennis?
7	Is Joe watching TV?
8	Do you watch TV a lot?
9	Do you have a headache?
10	Adrian is never ill, is he?
11	Are you feeling ill?
12	Sue lives in Berlin, doesn't she?
13	Do you go to the cinema a lot?
14	Would you like to go to New
	York one day?

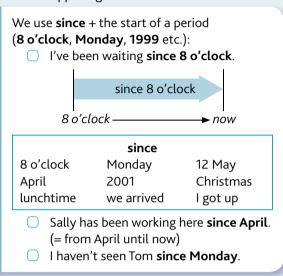
	\mathcal{A}^{B}
Yes, he has been in h	ospital since Monday.
No, I haven't seen h	er for three months.
Yes, she	married for ten years.
Yes, I	for the last half hour.
Yes, we	each other a long time.
No, I	tennis for years.
Yes, he	TV all evening.
No, I	TV for ages.
Yes, I	a headache all morning.
No, he	ill since I've known him.
Yes, I	ill all day.
Yes, she	in Berlin for the
last few years.	
No, I	to the cinema for ages.
	to go to New York.
(use always / want)	

Unit

For and since When ...? and How long ...?

We use **for** and **since** to say how long something has been happening.

We use for + a period of time (two hours, six weeks etc.): I've been waiting for two hours. for two hours two hours ago now for two hours 20 minutes five days a long time six months 50 years a week ages years Sally has been working here for six **months**. (*not* since six months) I haven't seen Tom for three days.



It is possible to leave out **for** (but not usually in negative sentences):

- They've been married (for) ten years. (with or without for)
- They haven't had a holiday for ten years. (you must use for)

We do not use for + all ... (all day / all my life etc.):

I've lived here all my life. (not for all my life)

You can use **in** instead of **for** in negative sentences (**I haven't** ... etc.):

They haven't had a holiday in ten years. (= for ten years)

Compare when ...? (+ past simple) and how long ...? (+ present perfect):



В

- A: When did it start raining?
- B: It started raining an hour ago / at 1 o'clock.
- A: How long has it been raining?
- B: It's been raining for an hour / since 1 o'clock.



- A: When did Joe and Carol first meet?
- a long time ago. в: They first met { when they were at school.
- A: How long have they known each other?
- for a long time. в: They've known each other since they were at school.

We say: (= It **is**) a long time since something happened or It's been (= It has been) six months (etc.)

- It's two years since | last saw joe. or It's been two years since ... (= I haven't seen Joe for two years)
- It's ages since we went to the cinema. or It's been ages since ... (= We haven't been to the cinema for ages)
- How long is it since Mrs Hill died? or How long has it been since ...? (= When did Mrs Hill die?)

How long have you (been) ... ? → Unit 11

Exercises

424		tite for an inverse	
12.1		/rite for or since.	
		It's been raining <u>since</u> lunchtime.	
		Sarah has lived in Paris	
	3	Paul has lived in Brazil ten years.	
		I'm tired of waiting. We've been sitting herean hour.	
		Kevin has been looking for a jobhe left school.	
	6	I haven't been to a partyages.	
	7	I wonder where Joe is. I haven't seen himlast week.	
	8	Jane is away. She's been away Friday.	
	9	The weather is dry. It hasn't rained a few weeks.	
12.2	W	rite questions with how long and when .	
	1	It's raining.	
		(how long?) How long has it been raining?	
		(when?) When did it start raining?	
	2	Kate is learning Japanese.	
	_	(how long / learn?)	
		(when / start?)	
	3	I know Simon.	
	,	(how long / you / know?)	
		(when / you / first / meet?)	
	1	Rebecca and David are married.	
	_	(how long?)	
		(when?)	
12.2	р.	and the districtions and consolete the contourse	
12.3		ead the situations and complete the sentences.	
		It's raining. It's been raining since lunchtime. It started raining at lunchtime.	
		Ann and Jess are friends. They first met years ago. They've known each other for years.	
		Mark is ill. He became ill on Sunday. He has Sunday	
		Mark is ill. He became ill a few days ago. He has a few days	
		Sarah is married. She's been married for a year. She got	
	6	You have a headache. It started when you woke up.	
		I'veI woke up.	
	7	Sue has been in Italy for the last three weeks.	
		She went	
	8	You're working in a hotel. You started six months ago.	
		l've	
12.4	W	rite B's sentences using the words in brackets.	
	1	A: Do you often go on holiday?	
		B: No, I haven't had a holiday for five years.	
	2	A: Do you often see Laura?	
	_	B: No, Iabout a month.	
	3	A: Do you often go to the cinema?	
	_	B: No, a long time.	
	1	A: Do you often eat in restaurants?	
	_	B: No,	
		-	
		ow write B's answers again. This time use It's since	
		(1) No, it's five years since I had a holiday.	
		(2) No, its	
		(3) No,	
	8	(4)	

Unit 13

Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. He **has lost** his key. *(present perfect)* This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:



Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now. **Has** he **lost** his key? No, he **has found** it.

Did he **lose** his key? Yes, he **did**.

He **lost** his key (past simple)

but now he has found it. (present perfect)

The present perfect (something **has happened**) is a *present* tense. It always tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The past simple (something **happened**) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do *not* use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- They've gone away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away now)
 They went away, but I think they're back at home now. (not They've gone)
- It **has stopped** raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*) It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- 'I've repaired the washing machine. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- 'Sally has had a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

I repaired the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (not the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart was a composer. He wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
 (not has been ... has written)
- My mother grew up in Italy. (not has grown)

Compare:

- Did you know that somebody has invented a new type of washing machine?
- Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)

We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

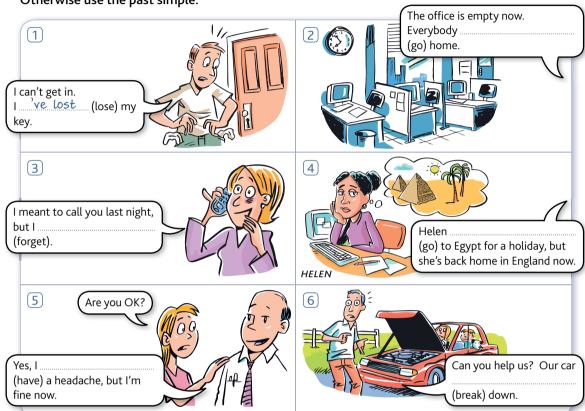
- A: Ow! I've burnt myself.
 - B: How **did** you **do** that? (not have you done)
 - A: I picked up a hot dish. (not have picked)
- A: Look! Somebody has spilt something on the sofa.
 - B: Well, it wasn't me. I didn't do it. (not hasn't been ... haven't done)

Past simple → Unit 5 Present perfect → Units 7–8 Present perfect and past 2 → Unit 14
American English → Appendix 7

Exercises

Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect where possible.

Otherwise use the past simple.



13.2 Are the <u>underlined</u> parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

1	Did you hear about Sue? She's given up her job.	OK
2	My mother <u>has grown</u> up in Italy.	grew
3	How many poems has William Shakespeare written?	
4	Ow! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding.	
5	Drugs <u>have become</u> a big problem everywhere.	
6	Who has invented paper?	
7	Where have you been born?	
8	Ellie isn't at home. <u>She's gone</u> shopping.	
9	Albert Finstein has been the scientist who	

13.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

<u>has developed</u> the theory of relativity.

	It stopped raining for a while, but no			
2	The town where I live is very different nov	v. It has change	a lot. (it / change)	
3	I studied German at school, but	m	nost of it now. (I / forget)	
4	The policethr	ee people, but later t	they let them go. (arrest)	
	What do you think of my English? Do you			
6	6 A: Are you still reading the paper?			
	B: No, with it	t. You can have it. (I	(I / finish)	
7	for a job as a	tourist guide, but I wa	vasn't successful. (I / apply)	
8	Where's my bike?	outside the hou	use, but it's not there now. (it / b	oe)
	Quick! We need to call an ambulance.			
10	A: Have you heard about Ben?	his	is arm. (he / break)	
	в: Really? How			
	A:off a ladde	r. (he / fall)		

Unit **14**

Present perfect and past 2 (I have done and I did)

Do not use the present perfect (I have done) when you talk about a finished time (for example, yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 2005 / when I was a child). Use a past tense: It was very cold yesterday. (not has been) Paul and Lucy arrived ten minutes ago. (not have arrived) Did you eat a lot of sweets when you were a child? (not have you eaten) I got home late last night. I was very tired and went straight to bed. Use the past to ask When? or What time?: When did your friends arrive? (not have arrived) What time did you finish work?		
Compare:		
Present perfect Tom has lost his key. He can't get into the house. Is Carla here or has she left?	Past simple ☐ Tom lost his key yesterday. He couldn't get into the house. ☐ When did Carla leave?	
Compare:		
Present perfect (have done) I've done a lot of work today.	Past simple (did) I did a lot of work yesterday.	
We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues <i>until now</i> . For example: today / this week / since 2007.	We use the past simple for a <i>finished</i> time in the past. For example: yesterday / last week / from 2007 to 2010.	
_ unfinished _ today	_ unfinished _ yesterday	
past now	past now	
It hasn't rained this week.	☐ It didn't rain last week.	
Have you seen Anna this morning? (it is still morning)	 Did you see Anna this morning? (it is now afternoon or evening) 	
Have you seen Tim recently?	Did you see Tim on Sunday?	
 I don't know where Lisa is. I haven't seen her recently) 	 A: Was Lisa at the party on Sunday? B: I don't think so. I didn't see her. 	
We've been waiting for an hour. (we are still waiting now)	 We waited (or were waiting) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting) 	
 Jack lives in Los Angeles. He has lived there for seven years. 	 Jack lived in New York for ten years. Now he lives in Los Angeles. 	
☐ I have never played golf. (in my life)	☐ I didn't play golf last summer .	
 It's the last day of your holiday. You say: It's been a really good holiday. I've really enjoyed it. 	 After you come back from holiday you say: It was a really good holiday. I really enjoyed it. 	

Exercises

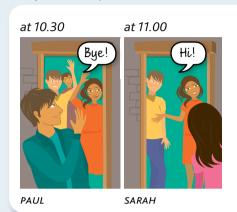
14.1 A	re the <u>underlined</u> parts of these sentences right or wron	-
1	I've lost my key. I can't find it anywhere.	OK
2	Have you eaten a lot of sweets when you were a child?	Did you eat
	I've bought a new car. You must come and see it.	
	<u>I've bought</u> a new car last week.	
5	Where have you been yesterday evening?	
	Lucy has left school in 1999.	
	I'm looking for Mike. <u>Have you seen</u> him?	
	' <u>Have you been</u> to Paris?' 'Yes, many times.'	
	I'm very hungry. <u>I haven't eaten</u> much today.	
	When has this book been published?	
14.2 M	lake sentences from the words in brackets. Use the prese	ent perfect or past simple.
	(it / not / rain / this week) It hasn't rained this we	
	(the weather / be / cold / recently) The weather	
	(it / cold / last week) It	
	(I / not / read / a newspaper yesterday)	
	(I / not / read / a newspaper today)	
	(Emily / earn / a lot of money / this year)	
	(she / not / earn / so much / last year)	
8	(you / have / a holiday recently?)	
	ut the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past	
	'What's Madrid like?' 'I don't know. I haven't been	-
2	When (I / get) home last nigh	· · ·
2	very tired and (I / go) straight	to bed.
3	A: (you / see) Lisa recently?	
	B: Yes, (I / saw) her a few day	
	I'm tired. (I / not / sle	
	The bus drivers were on strike last week.	
6	Mr Lee (work) in a bank for 15 years.	inen (ne / give)
-	it up. Now he works as a gardener.	
	Mary lives in Dublin. (she / l	
8	A: (you / go) to the cinema la	
	B: Yes, but (it / be) a mistake. Th	
9	My grandfather (die) before I	was born.
10	(I / never / meet) him.	(1.7
	I don't know Karen's husband.	
11	It's nearly lunchtime, and	(I / not / see) Martin all morning.
40	I wonder where he is.	
12	'Where do you live?' 'In Boston.'	.1 01 (5)
	'How long (you / live)	
	'Where (you / live) bef	
	'And how long (you / l	ive) in Chicago?' 'Two years.'
	rite sentences about yourself using the ideas in bracket	
1	(something you haven't done today) I haven't eaten	any fruit today
	(something you haven't done today)	
	(something you didn't do yesterday)	
	(something you did yesterday evening)	
	(something you haven't done recently)	
	(something you've done a lot recently)	

Unit **15**

Past perfect (I had done)

Α

Study this example situation:



Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He had gone home.

Had gone is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it

The past perfect simple is had + past participle (gone/seen/finished etc).

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

Sarah arrived at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had** ...):

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

Some more examples:

- When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- ☐ Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she'd already seen the movie.
- At first I thought I'd done the right thing, but I soon realised that I'd made a big mistake.
- ☐ The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.
 - or ... He **had** never **flown** before.

Compare the present perfect (have seen etc.) and the past perfect (had seen etc.):

Present perfect

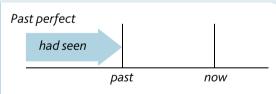
have seen

past now

Who is that woman? I've seen her before, but I can't remember where.

We aren't hungry. We've just had lunch.

The house is dirty. They haven't cleaned it for weeks.



- I wasn't sure who she was. I'd seen her before, but I couldn't remember where.
- We weren't hungry. We'd just had lunch.
- The house was dirty. They hadn't cleaned it for weeks.

Compare the past simple (left, was etc.) and the past perfect (had left, had been etc.):

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
 - B: Yes, but he **left** soon afterwards.
- Kate wasn't at home when I phoned. She was at her mother's house.
- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?B: No, he had already left.
 - Kate had just got home when I phoned. She had been at her mother's house.

Past perfect continuous → Unit 16

Irregular verbs (gone/seen etc.) → Appendix 1

Exercises

15.1	Re	ead the situations and write sentences fro	om the words in brackets.
	1	You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't the	
	2	(she / go / out) She had gone out. You went back to your home town after ma	
		(it / change / a lot)	
	3	I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn'	't come.
	4	You went to the cinema last night. You got	
	_	(the film / already / start)	
	5	It was nice to see Daniel again after such a l	ong time.
	6	I offered Sue something to eat, but she was	n't hungry.
		(she / just / have / breakfast)	
15.2		_	vith never before . Use the verb in brackets.
	1	The man sitting next to you on the plane wa (fly) He'd never flown before.	
	2	Somebody sang a song. I didn't know it.	
	_	(hear) I	
	3	Sam played tennis yesterday. He wasn't ver (play) He	
	4	Last year we went to Mexico. It was our firs	t time there.
		(be there) We	
	pa		happened before (b), (b) before (c) etc. But your nee, so sometimes you need the past perfect. We arrived at work in the morning and found that somebody had broken into the office during the night. So the police.
	2	(a) Laura went out this morning.	I went to Laura's house this morning and
		(b) <u>I rang her doorbell.</u>(c) There was no answer.	rang her doorbell, but no answer out.
	2	(a) Jim came back from holiday a few	•
	,	days ago.	I met Jim a few days ago.
		(b) I met him the same day.	} just holiday. Jvery well.
		(c) He looked very well.	
	4	(a) Kevin sent Sally lots of emails.(b) She never replied to them.	Yesterday Kevin from Sally. very surprised.
		(c) Yesterday he got a phone call from her.	lots of emails,
		(d) He was very surprised.	J but
15.4		it the verb into the correct form, past perfe	
	1	'Was Paul at the party when you arrived?' I felt very tired when I got home, so I	'No, he <u>had gone</u> (go) home.'
			Everybody(go) straight to bed.
		Sorry I'm late. The car	
		We were driving along the road when we (break) down, so we	(see) a car which

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