

GRAMMAR: Narrative tenses

We use the past simple to talk about finished actions and situations in the past.

*In the 1870s, they **bought** a 160-acre plot of land in the area.*

We use the past continuous to talk about activities in progress in the past.

*By 1900, the number of residents in Hollywood **was increasing** significantly.*

We use the past perfect simple when we talk about two things that happened at different times in the past.

*Before they started to move to Hollywood, filmmakers **had been based** on the coast of the United States.*

We use the past perfect continuous to talk about actions or situations that were in progress before another action or situation. We also use it to talk about the duration of a past action up to a certain point in the past.

*Daيدا **had been travelling** home by train one day when she came across a woman from Ohio who told her that her house was called Hollywood.*

***I'd been watching** the programme every week, but I missed the last episode.*

Exercise 1. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple, past continuous, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

1. Until the introduction of films with recorded sound in the 1920s, silent films ... (be) the norm.
2. Frank Sinatra ... (work) in the entertainment industry for almost 60 years when he died in 1998.
3. In the early part of the 20th century, the film industry ... (develop) in Europe as well as in the US.
4. Louis Le Prince ... (make) the first British film in Leeds in 1888.
5. The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel ... (serve) as the venue for the first Oscar ceremony in 1929.
6. Until the early 1970s, Japanese cinema ... (be) one of the most important in Asia.

Exercise 2. Write a short narrative of the growth and development of the city where you live. Mention important past and recent events and anything it might be famous for. Remember to use narrative tenses.