

Tenses

simple past

This tense states the **action** that **has already happened**.

simple present

This tense allows us talk about **things that don't change** like facts, habits or regularly repeated actions
-e.g. the things we like or don't like.

Present perfect - the have past

This tense suggests either that an **action has completed** - '**perfected**' - or that an action that started in the **past now continues in the present**.

present progressive - the is/am -ing

This tense allows us talk about things that are happening **now** and **haven't finished yet**.

past perfect (pluperfect) - the had past

This tense is used to refer to **something that occurred earlier** than the time being considered, when the time being considered **is already in the past**.

past progressive - the was -ing

This tense is often used to refer to **things that happened at a particular moment in the past**.

Tick the box in each row to show which tense the sentence is written in.

Sentence	simple past	past progressive	simple present	present progressive	present perfect	past perfect
I am eating cakes.				✓		
She ate cakes.						
They were eating cakes.						
The children learnt about Romans in history.						
The computer works well.						
The computer worked well.						
I have lost my trainers.						
The children are choosing what they want to do.						
They added raisins to the muffins.						
He was hiding in the laundry basket.						
Elaine has wanted to be a police officer for 15 years.						
Sam is playing on the computer.						
Sam often reads and plays on the computer.						
Sam often read and played on the computer.						
They have eaten all the cakes and now they feel sick.						
I have never been to Legoland.						
That was annoying.						

Now try and find sentences from your reading book, copy them down and identify their tense. Then try to rewrite them in an alternative tense...