

A. Read the short story and highlight the correct forms of the verbs using your PDF software's highlighting tool.

First Time Buyers

Last year, my wife and I (1) *bought / were buying* our first house. We (2) *had already been living / were already living* together for 5 years before we bought our house, so we (3) *knew / were knowing* how to live together. I'll never forget the first house we (4) *looked / had looked* at. It (5) *was / was*



being a small house in the suburbs with small windows. While we (6) *were walking / had walked* around the house, I (7) *noticed / was noticing* how dark and depressing it (8) *was / had been*. I (9) *was always living / had always lived* in a house with a lot of light and big windows, so I instantly (10) *hated / was hating* it. We (11) *saw / had seen* a few more houses after that which were all quite nice. We (12) *ended / had ended* up buying the second house that we (13) *visited / were visiting*. We (14) *had been seeing / had seen* it twice before we (15) *bought / had bought* it, just to be sure. I (16) *had been dreaming / was dreaming* of this day for a long time. Now, we have moved in. I'm really happy.

B. Match the narrative tenses from the box to their descriptions.

past simple	past continuous	past perfect	past perfect continuous
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1. is used for an action that took place before another action or event in the past.
2. is used for an action in the past that was in progress before another past action or event.
3. is used to describe a finished action or event in the past.
4. is used to describe an action or event in progress at a specific time in the past.

C. Use the prompts to create sentences using the four narrative tenses.

1. I / play football for years / before / I break my leg

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2. While / I / do my homework / my sister call me

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3. She / take a cooking lesson only once / before / she cook for me

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4. I / buy a new laptop / after / I use my old one for years

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5. The stylist / already cut the girl's hair / before / she / change her mind

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6. By the time my guests arrive / I already start eating

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D. Complete the first part of the story using the verbs below in their correct form. Then, continue the story using the four narrative tenses and your own ideas.

drive stop pick plan stand decide be x 2

Last summer, my cousin and I (1) to go on a road trip across America. We (2) the journey for months when the day to leave finally arrived. We (3) never to



America before, so we (4) both really excited about the trip ahead. We (5) up the rental car from the airport and (6) it out on to the highway. After a few hours of driving, we (7) at a gas station. While we (8) outside the gas station, a long black limousine pulled up next to us. ..

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