

## Past Distance

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**Task 1. In Past Time there are only four verb forms that can be used. What are they?**

**Task 2. Read through this text and underline the verb forms.**

When I lived in Canterbury I worked as an archaeologist. I wasn't Indiana Jones but I did have some fun. We once dug up 1500 skeletons and I had to photograph them all. I remember helping to demolish a post office. We wanted to use the doors so we threw them through the windows – it was easier than taking them down the stairs. Sometimes I had to climb up onto roofs to take photos. It was quite scary at times. When there wasn't a roof handy I had to build a scaffold tower. When I built it, it felt safe. When someone else built it, it felt very wobbly. I don't think I trusted anyone else to build it properly.

**How many different forms are there? What are they? Why are these ones used and not others?**

**Task 3. Read through these examples and correct any mistakes you find.**

1. When I looked up, she had gone.
2. When the guards arrived the prisoners escaped.
3. She arrived before I had finished cooking dinner.
4. I was walking along when I was seeing a lovely dog.
5. It was raining very hard and I was getting completely soaked.
6. If I hadn't met Ilona, I wouldn't be here now.
7. I couldn't go to the concert because I had caught a cold the day before.
8. If I hadn't gone to Paris in '98, I wouldn't have seen the President of France and his mistress walking in the park.
9. I wish I hadn't said that.
10. Dinosaurs had lived many years ago.
11. I used to live here when I was a child – I'm glad I'm back.
12. I had been waiting for an hour so I gave up and went home.

**Here is a rule that tells you when to use the different forms:**

**When talking about Past Time we always use the Second Form (the Simple Past).**

**Unless** the activity is important, when we use **the Past Continuous**

**Unless** a relationship to another event in past time is important, when we use **the Past Perfect**

**(Unless** the activity is **also** important, when we use **the Past Perfect Continuous**)

**Unless** unreality is important, when we use **the Past Perfect**.

**Task 4. Which sentences above illustrate parts of this rule?**

**Key**

**ask 1. In Past Time there are only four verb forms that can be used. What are they?**

Simple Past    Past Perfect    Past Continuous    Past Perfect Continuous    Used to

**Task 2. Read through this text and underline the verb forms.**

When I lived in Canterbury I worked as an archaeologist. I wasn't Indiana Jones but I did have some fun. We once dug up 1500 skeletons and I had to photograph them all. I remember helping to demolish a post office. We wanted to use the doors so we threw them through the windows – it was easier than taking them down the stairs. Sometimes I had to climb up onto roofs to take photos. It was quite scary at times. When there wasn't a roof handy I had to build a scaffold tower. When I built it, it felt safe. When someone else built it, it felt very wobbly. I don't think I trusted anyone else to build it properly.

**How many different forms are there? What are they? Why are these ones used and not others?**

**Task 3. Read through these examples and correct any mistakes you find.**

1. When I looked up, she had gone. **correct**
2. When the guards arrived the prisoners escaped. **correct**
3. She arrived before I had finished cooking dinner. **correct**
4. I was walking along when I ~~was seeing~~ **saw** a lovely dog.
5. It was raining very hard and I was getting completely soaked. **correct**
6. If I hadn't met Ilona, I wouldn't be here now. **correct**
7. I couldn't go to the concert because I had caught a cold the day before. **correct**
8. If I hadn't gone to Paris in '98, I wouldn't have seen the President of France and his mistress walking in the park. **correct**
9. I wish I hadn't said that. **correct**
10. Dinosaurs ~~had~~ lived many years ago.
11. I used to live here when I was a child – I'm glad I'm back. **correct**
12. I had been waiting for an hour so I gave up and went home. **correct**