3 PAST TENSES

- **SIMPLE PAST**
  
  Action finished at a specific time in the past:

  
  *I came to school at 8 am yesterday.*
  
  *She arrived in Canada in 1998.*
  
  *They used to write on lined paper.*

- **PAST PROGRESSIVE**

  (form with WAS/WERE + ING)

  Action in progress at a specific time in the past:

  
  *We were taking a break when the alarm went off.*

  Ongoing action interrupted by a specific event:

  
  *David called me when I was sleeping.*

  Not used with non-action verbs:

  
  *X I was liking him when I met him first. X*
  
  *X We loved that house when we were owning it. X*

- **PAST PERFECT**

  (form with HAD + the past participle)

  Action that happened in the past before another past action or before a specific time:

  
  *They had eaten dinner before the movie began.*
  
  *She had understood the lesson before the class.*
  
  *They arrived late, and the class had begun.*