# 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.