

## Past Tense – Use the Correct Tense

### Exercise 1

Four of these sentences contain mistakes with the past simple, past progressive or past perfect. Tick the two correct sentences and correct the mistakes in the others.

1. The lecturer already started the lecture when we arrived.
2. Andy met his future wife while he lived in Paris.
3. We waited until all our guests had arrived before we told them the news.
4. The workers had organised a strike after the negotiations had broken down.
5. We went on several demonstrations when we were living in London.
6. We were marching downtown when the president was resigning unexpectedly.

### Exercise 2

Look at the biographical details of George Brown. Make sentences about George from the prompts using the past progressive or past perfect. More than one answer is sometimes possible:

#### George Brown:

1985 joined the Labour Party.

1986-'91 studied law.

1988 became very active in student politics.

1991 graduated with a law degree.

1992 joined a law practice, working as a junior lawyer.

1994 met and married Rosa.

1995 started getting involved in local politics.

1996 became a partner in the law practice.

2003 gave up law and became a professional politician.

1. Become active in student politics / study law in college.
2. Become active in student politics / graduate from college.
3. Get his law degree / join a law practice.
4. Work as a junior lawyer / meet his wife.
5. Be involved in local politics for eight years / become a politician.

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### Exercise 1

1. The lecturer had already started the lecture when we arrived. (*started happened before the second action arrived*)
2. Andy met his future wife while he was living in Paris. (*the second action living was ongoing when the first happened*)
3. We waited until all our guests had arrived before we told them the news.
4. The workers \_\_\_\_\_organised a strike after the negotiations had broken down. (*organised comes after the first action – broken down*)
5. We went on several demonstrations when we were living in London.
6. We were marching downtown when the president resigned unexpectedly. (*resigned is a short action that took place during the first action – were marching*)

### Exercise 2

1. Become active in student politics / study law in college:  
Jim became active in student politics while he was studying law in college.  
Jim was studying law in college when he became active in student politics.
2. Become active in student politics / graduate from college:  
Jim became active in student politics before he graduated from college.  
Jim had become active in student politics before he graduated from college. (*this emphasises that it had already happened before he graduated*).
3. Get his law degree / join a law practice:  
After Jim got his law degree he joined a law practice.
4. Work as a junior lawyer / meet his wife:  
Jim was working as a junior lawyer when he met his wife.  
Jim met his wife while he was working as a junior lawyer.
5. Be involved in local politics for eight years / become a politician:  
Jim had been involved in local politics for eight years before he became a politician.  
Jim became a politician after he had been involved in local politics for eight years.