1. Past simple

* Something that happened in the past – we know exactly when
* With regular verbs we use –ed (work-ed, start-ed, dance-d, believe-d)
* With irregular verbs we use the second column (grow-grew, leave-left)
* In questions we use the auxiliary verb in past (did, was/were)
* In negatives we do the same as in questions
  + I didn’t live in Zlín 4 years ago.
  + I called you yesterday.
  + Were you at the last English lesson?

1. Past continuous

* We use it to talk more about the background of some events
* We use it if an activity was ongoing in the past
* We use the verb to be in the past + a present form of verb with –ing
  + I was washing the dishes when you called.
  + What were you doing when the accident happened?
  + I actually wasn’t skiing with others because I can’t ski.

1. Past perfect simple

* We use it to talk about something that happened before something else in the past
* We use HAD + 3rd participle (3rd column of irregular verbs and –ed form with regular verbs)
  + I had studied English before I started this course.
  + Had you studied English before starting this course?
  + I hadn’t studied English before starting this course.

1. Past perfect continous

* We use it to talk about something that happened before something else as well, but this time we are focusing more on the time – how much time did it take
* We use HAD + BEEN (3rd participle of BE) + the verb in present form ending with –ing
  + I had been studying English for 5 years before I started this course?
  + Had you been working in this company for more than 1 year before you got the promotion?

1. Present perfect simple

* We use it to describe something that happened in the past but has an effect on the present or is still continuing
* We also use it for actions that happened in the past – but we don’t know or we don’t say when exactly it happened
* When we are speaking about some “score“ that might change (I’ve seen it 5 times, I’ve never seen it)
* We use it with recent past – with words like just and recently
* We use HAVE + 3rd participle (3rd column of irregular verbs and –ed form with regular verbs)
  + What has just happened?
  + Have you seen my glasses?
  + I’ve known her since we were kids.

1. Present perfect continuous

* Very similar to present perfect simple but with continuous we again focus on the time – how long?
* We use HAVE + BEEN + verb ending in –ing
  + I’ve been studying English for almost 10 years now.
  + She’s been looking for her glasses all day long.
  + How long have you been working there?