

- › **Goal:** narrate a childhood memory
- › **Grammar:** past perfect simple and continuous
- › **Vocabulary:** memory



Reading

- 1** How good is your memory? Do the memory quiz then work in pairs and compare scores.

Do you remember ...

- what you did on your last birthday?
 - how you were feeling yesterday lunchtime?
 - when you got your first mobile phone?
 - what you did last Saturday evening?
 - where you bought the shoes you're wearing now?
 - your first day at school?
 - what you did on February 22nd 2015?
 - what you ate for dinner the day before yesterday?
- Give yourself one point if you remember clearly, half a point if you remember vaguely and zero points if you don't remember at all.

- 2 a** Read about Rebecca and HSAM. What is unique about Rebecca?
- b** What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of having HSAM?

Rebecca Sharrock has an extraordinary memory. She remembers being 12 days old and her father taking a photograph of her. She remembers already having dreams at 18 months old and how she couldn't tell the difference between dreams and reality. And if you say a Harry Potter book and a page number, Rebecca will remember the exact words on the page.

Rebecca has HSAM which stands for Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory. People with HSAM – and there are currently fewer than 100 in the world – can effortlessly recall just about everything that has ever happened to them, although Rebecca is unique in how early her memory starts.

For example, Rebecca remembers the details of her first birthday celebration. Her family's friends and relatives were waiting for her in the garden and her mother took her outside to see them. She'd been crying because her mother had put her in an itchy satin dress and because she'd burnt her finger on a birthday candle. Later, while it was still light, Rebecca's mother took her to her cot to sleep. A new Minnie Mouse toy was lying next to her in the cot. Her mother had bought it for her as a present. Rebecca found the toy's face terrifying and she started crying again.

Rebecca's condition has its drawbacks. She responds to memories from her childhood with the same emotions she experienced at the time. This can be very difficult and can lead her to feel overwhelmed, confused and anxious.

Grammar

- 3 a** Look at the events from Rebecca's first birthday. Which ones happened before the main events in the story?

- 1 Her mother took her outside.
- 2 She'd been crying.
- 3 Her mother took her to her cot.
- 4 A new toy was lying next to her in the cot.
- 5 Her mother had bought it for her.
- 6 She started crying again.

- b** Which tense is used for each event in Exercise 3a?

- c** Read the grammar box and check your answers.

Past perfect simple and continuous

Use the **past perfect** to make it clear that something happened before another action or event in the past.

Use the **past perfect simple** for single, completed actions and events.

*Her mother **had bought** it for her as a present.*

Use the past perfect simple for repeated actions that are completed before another action.

*Her mother **had taken** her to the garden **many times before**.*

The past perfect is often used with *by the time* and *already*.

***By the time** she was 18 months, she'd **started** to dream.*

If two past perfect verbs are next to each other, you can leave out *had* in the second verb.

***By the time** I left the party, everyone else **had cleared up and gone** home.*

Use the **past perfect continuous** for actions that were in progress before the main events or continued up to the main events. The emphasis is on the duration of the action.

*She'd **been crying**.*

Like other continuous tenses, it is common to use *for* and *since* with the past perfect continuous.


*They'd **been planning** the party **for weeks**.*

Often both the simple and continuous forms are possible with no difference in meaning.

*It **had rained** all night/It **had been raining** all night.*

- 4 What is the difference in meaning between the pairs of sentences, if any? In two pairs there is no difference in meaning.

- 1 a She called me after I'd left.
b She called me after I left.
- 2 a I was hot because I'd been running.
b I was hot because I was running.
- 3 a He started crying because I'd laughed at him.
b He started crying because I laughed at him.
- 4 a When I got home, she did her homework.
b When I got home, she'd done her homework.

- 5 a  3.1 Listen and complete the text with the past simple or past perfect simple form of the verbs in brackets. Notice that it can be hard to hear 'd in the past perfect.

I remember my first driving test like it was yesterday. I ¹_____ (have) hundreds of lessons and I ²_____ (practise) a lot. I ³_____ (even / save) money to buy a car. But during the test I ⁴_____ (bump) into a parked car! I ⁵_____ (fail) immediately. I ⁶_____ (wait) three months then I ⁷_____ (try) again. Unfortunately, I ⁸_____ (fail) the test again!

- b  3.2 Listen and repeat.

- 6 a Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

For my birthday last year I ¹_____ (not / plan) to do anything. I was tired after a long day at work, so when I ²_____ (open) the front door and ³_____ (find) all my friends and family waiting for me, I was more than a little overwhelmed! Someone ⁴_____ (organise) a surprise birthday party for me! They ⁵_____ (tidy) the house and ⁶_____ (decorate) the front room with balloons. And from the smell of fresh herbs, I knew that someone ⁷_____ (cook). Everyone immediately ⁸_____ (start) singing and congratulating me and then they ⁹_____ (give) me a group present. They ¹⁰_____ (buy) me my first electric guitar. I ¹¹_____ (learn) the guitar for a couple of years so I ¹²_____ (feel) really touched by their gesture.

- b Think of a surprise birthday party you have been to. It can be real or invented. Complete the sentences.

- We/The organisers had been planning the party for ...
- We/The organisers had decided to have the party in ...
- We/The organisers had bought ...
- I/My friend was very surprised. I/He/She hadn't been expecting ...

 Go to page 140 or your app for more information and practice.

Vocabulary

- 7 a Work in pairs. Match the words and phrases in bold in 1–8 with meanings a–h.

- 1 I **have a good memory for** names.
- 2 I **have no memory of** being a young child.
- 3 It's hard to **recall** what I was doing this time last week.
- 4 I find it hard to **memorise** new vocabulary.
- 5 I'll **never forget** the first time I went to a football match.
- 6 Some songs **remind me of** being a child.
- 7 My last birthday was very **memorable**.
- 8 Everyone should **bear in mind** the fact that your memory can trick you.
a easy to remember because something special happened
b learn so that you know it perfectly
c be good at remembering
d make me think of
e not remember an event
f will always remember
g not forget because it may be useful in the future
h remember

- b Change the underlined words and phrases so the sentences are true for you. Work in pairs and compare your answers.

A: I have a good memory for dates.


B: Oh, really. Have you always been like that?



Go to page 158 or your app for more vocabulary and practice.

Speaking

PREPARE

- 8 a  3.3 Listen to two people narrating a childhood memory. Make notes.
- b Work in pairs and compare your notes. Then listen again and check.
- 9 Think of a childhood memory, e.g. your first day at school. Make notes about what happened.

SPEAK

- 10 Work in pairs and take turns narrating your childhood memory. Ask your partner for more details. Use the Useful phrases to help you.

Useful phrases

Wow! So how did you feel when ...?
Had you been looking forward to ...?
Tell me, what was ... like?
And how did you respond?
Tell me more about ...

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your
writing
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LANGUAGE

3A Past perfect simple and continuous

The past perfect shows that one action happened before another in the past. Use the **past perfect simple** for an action that was completed before another took place:

first action

second action

*I **had seen** the film at the cinema before it **was shown** on TV.*

You can use the past perfect simple for repeated actions completed before another action:

*She **had taken** her driving test five times before she **actually passed** it.*

With a series of actions, you usually only use *had* with the first one:

*She **had left** home, **moved** to a different town and **rented** a flat before she realised she was lonely.*

If the actions happen very close to one another in time, don't use the past perfect, especially with *before*, *after* or *when*: *After the baby **woke up**, he **started** screaming.*

The adverbs *just*, *already*, *by the time* and *never* are often used with the past perfect:

*I **had never** experienced anything like it before.*

Use the **past perfect continuous** for an action in progress in the past up to the time another action happened:

first action

second action

*He **had been waiting** for weeks before he **got** an appointment with the consultant.*

You can use the past perfect continuous to give the cause of a past action or situation:

*Josh was exhausted because he **had been working** for ten hours.*

You often use the adverbs *for* and *since* with the past perfect continuous:

*We **had been expecting** a call **since** we received his letter.*

The past perfect simple focuses on completed actions, but the continuous focuses on the duration of an activity in progress. You can often use both forms with no real difference in meaning:

*When my parents left Paris, they **had lived/had been living** there for ten years.*

PRACTICE

3A 1 Which underlined action comes first and which comes second? Write 1 or 2 in the boxes.

- We took ☐ our friends from Australia to see a musical, but they'd already seen ☐ it twice.
- When I got up ☐ this morning, everything had been tidied up ☐.
- The factory had been making ☐ luxury goods for decades before it closed ☐ last week.
- Our car broke down ☐ yesterday, but it had been making ☐ strange noises since the weekend.
- We hadn't finished ☐ all the necessary reports when the Managing Director asked ☐ for ☐ them.
- I had been learning ☐ Spanish for three years before I spoke ☐ a word!

2 Choose the correct alternatives.

One of my most upsetting memories comes from when I was about 14. I was studying modern languages, and one year the department ¹ *held/had held* a competition with a prize of two weeks in France. My family ² *had never had/had never been having* a lot of money, so I ³ *never went/had never been abroad* at this point. So I was very keen to enter the competition, which ⁴ *involved/had involved* producing various pieces of work in French. By the time the closing date came, I ⁵ *had worked/had been working* day and night to try and win. When the head teacher announced the results and said that I ⁶ *won/had won* the competition, I was over the moon! But when I ⁷ *gave/had given* my parents the news, they didn't seem happy. The next day they explained: they ⁸ *read/had read* the details and then ⁹ *realised/had realised* they had to pay for some of the trip, which they couldn't afford. The previous evening, they ¹⁰ *were trying/had been trying* to make the figures work for hours, but it was impossible.

Vocabulary bank

3A 'Memory' idioms

1 Match the phrases in bold with meanings a–h.

- 1 These are the worst floods **in living memory**.
 - 2 I'm sorry I missed your birthday. It just **slipped my mind** with everything that's going on.
 - 3 Visiting the seaside for the first time is my most vivid **childhood memory**.
 - 4 I'm sorry, what was I just saying? I've completely **lost my train of thought**.
 - 5 What's that actor's name? I **have a bad memory for** names.
 - 6 I told you Mr Charles doesn't like children sitting on his fence, and now he's told you off. Let that **serve as a reminder to** you.
 - 7 When you take Granny out, **bear in mind** that she can't walk very far, so park close to the shops.
 - 8 If I take that job, I'll really have to **refresh my memory** where databases are concerned.
- a something remembered from my early years
b for as long as people alive can remember
c help someone remember something important
d remind myself of something, particularly knowledge
e remember
f don't remember a particular sort of thing easily
g was forgotten
h forgotten what I wanted to say

2 a Complete the sentences with the correct form of expressions from Exercise 1.

- 1 Most people find they _____ historical dates; they're difficult to remember.
- 2 For many people, their earliest _____ is of a person, not an event.
- 3 If you learn something very quickly, you always have to _____ before you can apply it at a later date.
- 4 If you're very busy, it's easy for birthdays and anniversaries to _____.
- 5 Every generation should be shown films of the mistakes of the past to _____ to them not to make the same mistakes.
- 6 Recent years have seen the worst wildfires _____.



b Work in pairs. Do you agree with the sentences in Exercise 2a? Why/Why not?

Grammar

Past perfect simple and continuous

1 Choose the correct alternatives.

- By the time we got to the café, they *stopped/d stopped* serving food.
- I sat down and started reading the book that I'd just *bought/been buying*.
- The TV series that we'd *watched/been watching* for weeks had a disappointing ending.
- The sun *had been shining/shone* all day, so we were disappointed when it went in.
- I *never/d never* heard of the band that were playing on the radio before.
- We didn't get into the match even though we *were/d been* queueing for hours.
- Tom had already *ordered/been ordering* some food by the time I arrived.
- Paula went to bed early because she *worked/had been working* for over 12 hours.

2 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

A vivid memory. But whose?



Memories are strange. I have one memory that I can recall really clearly from when I was six. I lived with my parents in the small, terraced house that they ¹ (buy) just after I was born. I went outside to play on my scooter. I remember that it ² (rain) for hours so I soon got wet but I didn't mind. After I ³ (ride) around for a little while, the woman next door invited me in. She wanted me to try some of the cake she ⁴ (just/make). In fact, she ⁵ (bake) all day and ⁶ (make) several different types of cake. I picked the chocolate one and she cut me a slice.

While I ate, the woman showed me photos that her son ⁷ (sent) of her grandchildren. Her son ⁸ (already/move) to Australia by the time his children were born so she ⁹ (never/meet) them. I think she was sad about that.

Anyway, I put the last bite of cake in my mouth and started choking. I couldn't breathe and started to panic. Fortunately, the woman ¹⁰ (be) a nurse so knew exactly what to do. She turned me upside down and hit me on my back. The cake fell out and I could breathe again.

So, why is this memory strange? Well, it's really clear in my mind, so much so that it feels like it happened yesterday. And yet, the funny thing is, I don't actually remember it, but I've been told the story so many times by my mum, that I feel I like do.

Vocabulary

Memory

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

forget	memorable	memorise
memory (x2)	mind	recall
		remind

- I have a good for faces but I never remember people's names.
- Your perfume me of those pink flowers in our garden.
- I have to all of these words before my English test next week.
- I can still the first day I met you.
- What did we have for lunch? I've got no of it at all!
- I loved our wedding. It was such a day.
- When you visit Grandad, bear in that he's not very well.
- Don't to buy Mum a birthday present.

4 Complete the conversations using the prompts in brackets and other words you need.

- A:
(you / recall / name) of that hotel we stayed in last week?
B: The King's Hotel, I think.
- A:
(this music / remind you / anything)?
B: No, why? Should it?
- A: Well,
(that meeting / memorable).
B: Yes, it was but for all the wrong reasons!
- A: How come you can remember my mobile number but I can't?
B:
(I / always / good / memory / numbers).
- A:
(I / will / never / forget / time) that you called the teacher 'Dad'.
B: Oh yes – that was so embarrassing!
- A: We had this same conversation last week.
B: Did we?
(I / no memory / it at all). Sorry!
- A:
(None of us / need / memorise / history dates) any more.
B: You're right. We can just look them up online!