

This morning I overslept because I watched cat videos until 3 AM. The sun was shining, the motorbikes were buzzing, and my phone was exploding with messages from my class group chat. While I was brushing my teeth, my best friend Lina called me and yelled that the test had already started.

I ran out of the house, still wearing my panda pyjama pants. When I had arrived at school, everyone stared at me like I was some celebrity who had just forgotten their stylist. The principal was standing in the hallway and asked why I was wearing such *creative* trousers.

I tried to explain that I had lost track of time because I had been saving the world in a video game, but nobody believed me. In the end, I found out that the test had been cancelled because the fire alarm had gone off ten minutes before I have got there.

## Past Simple

finished actions

the main events of the story

## Past Perfect

had + past participle (verb + ed, or special form)

things that happened before other past actions

often with "by the time", "already", "before"

## Past Continuous

was/were + verb-ing

actions in progress or in the background

## Past Perfect Continuous

had been + verb-ing

longer actions or situations that were in progress before another past action or time

often focuses on duration or cause

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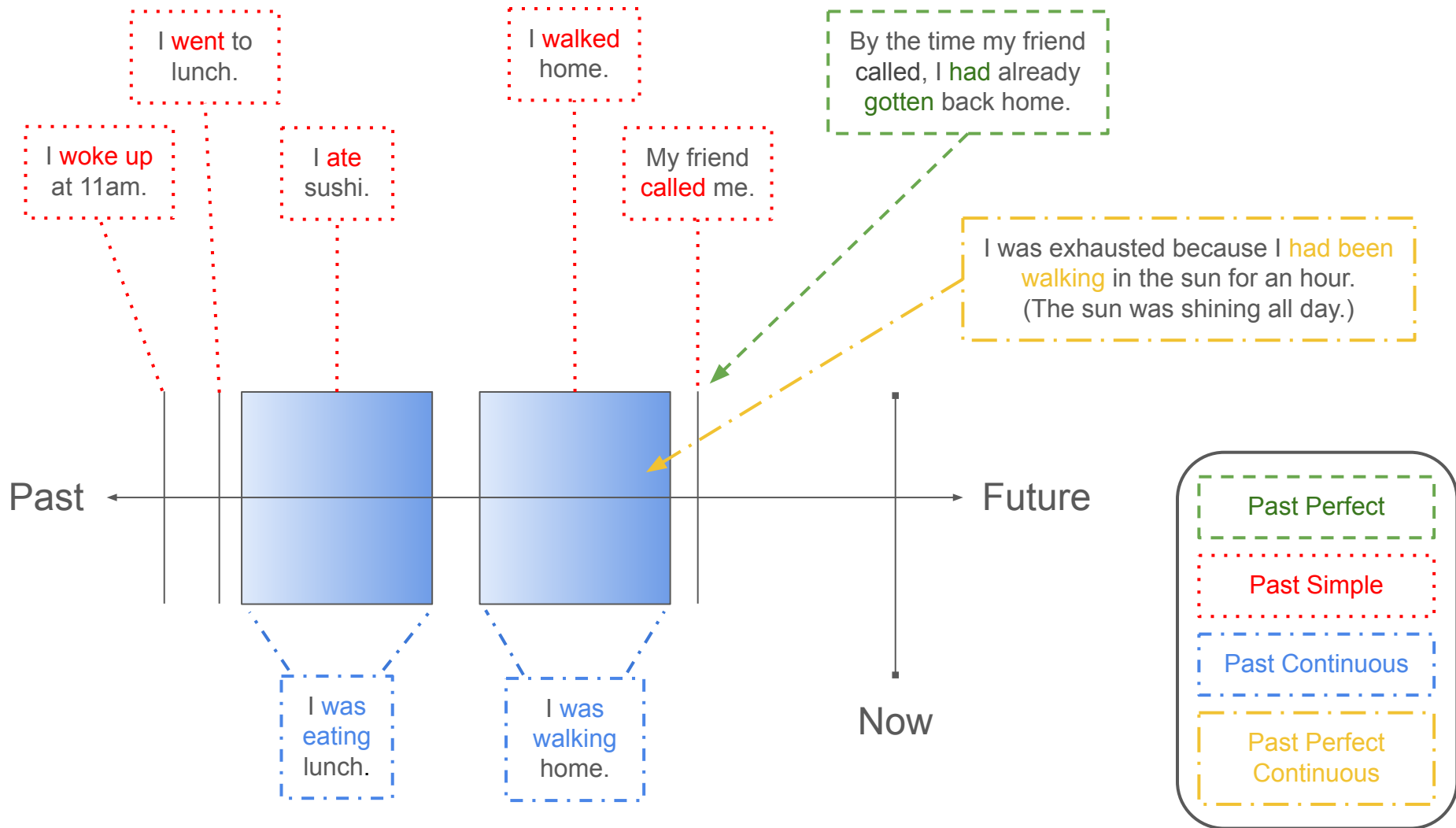
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In today's lesson we used **narrative tenses** to tell stories about the past:

- **past simple** for the main events
- **past continuous** for actions in progress or background
- **past perfect** for earlier past actions before another past event
- **past perfect continuous** for longer actions that were in progress before another past moment

We also corrected some common mistakes in a real story.

If you want extra practice, try writing a short paragraph about a time you were late or had a problem, and use all four tenses at least once.