

03. READING

DE JAMIE



#03

PAST SIMPLE

We use the Past Simple for **shorter, completed actions**. The actions normally **push the story forward and contain the action**.

E.g.

A giant dragon flew into Hospitalet and decided that everyone was friendly, so it took off again.

PAST CONTINUOUS

Past Continuous refers to **a continuing action or state that was happening at some point in the past**, unfinished. We use it to **set the scene and describe background information**.

E.g.

I was kicking a football down the street in Sant Eulalia. A car was playing music and an old man was sitting on a bench, drinking coffee and whistling.

PAST PERFECT

We use the Past Perfect when we are talking about **the past and we want to talk about something that happened before this time**. THINK: **The past before the past!** Había salido, había hecho etc. We can also use it **for flashbacks**.

E.g.

When I arrived at the party, Maria had already left.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

We use this to show that **an action started in the past and continued up to another point** in the past.

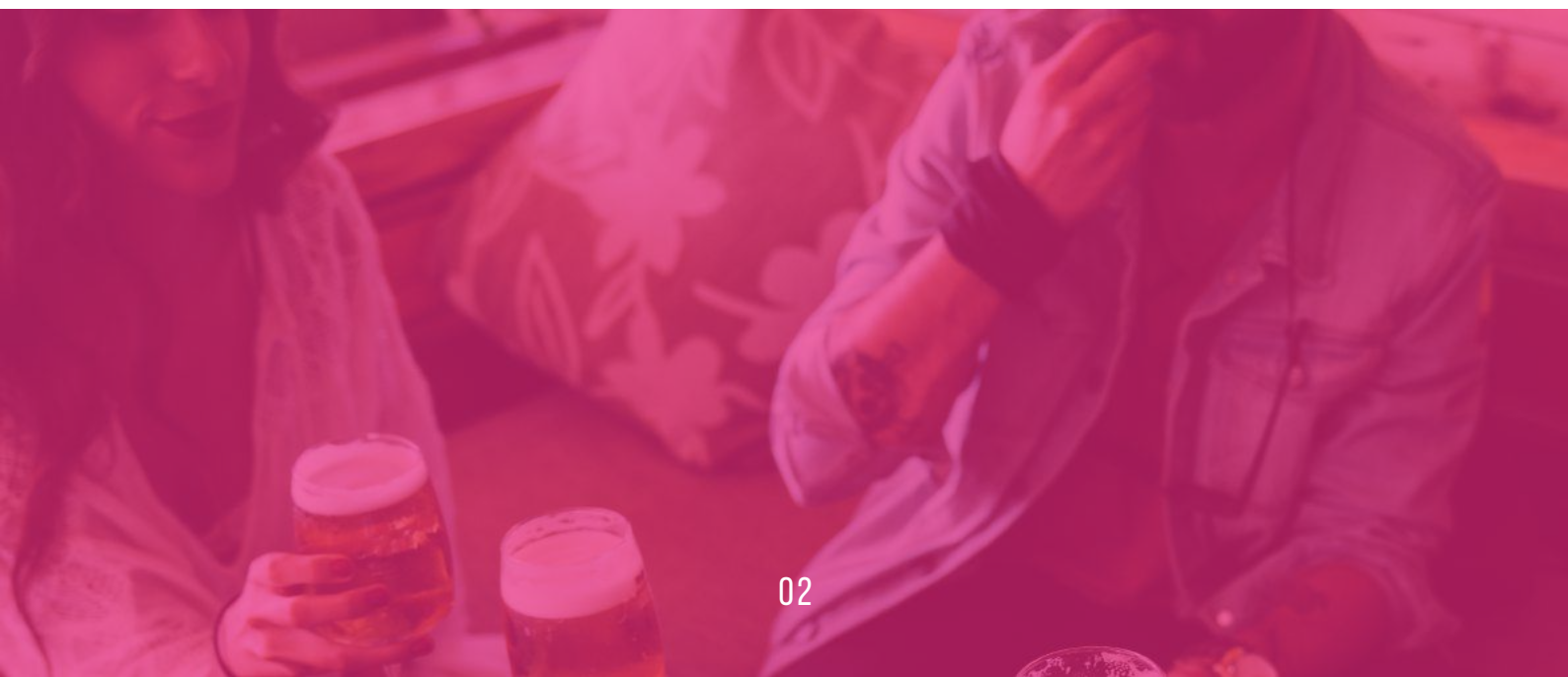
E.g.

I had been waiting for two hours before Xavi finally arrived.

The morning after the night before

Richard **woke up** with a mouth as dry as the Sahara Desert. He **had been dreaming** about curry all night long. But his memory of his night out on the town was *hazy*. He **remembered** knocking back lots of pints, pigging out in a restaurant and that he **had been feeling** queasy before getting into an Uber... URGH! He **got out** of bed and **washed** his face. He **looked** at himself in the mirror: *bloodshot eyes*, pale skin and a *guilty conscience*. It was official – he **was hungover**.

Richard **was making** himself a coffee and staring at the wall, desperately trying to *piece together* the previous night when the doorbell rang. He rushed to the bedroom to put on the trousers that he **had left** on the floor the night before, and went to answer the door. It was a police officer...





Hazy:

If your memory of something isn't clear (brumoso).



Bloodshot eyes:

When your eyes are red because of crying, drinking, hay fever etc.



Guilty conscience:

When you feel bad because of how you acted.



Hungover:

To feel ill because of excessive drinking.



Piece together:

Like a jigsaw. To look for clues to create a bigger picture.



new message:

now

Can you identify the tenses in bold and work out why?

