

## The old family home



You are looking for your brother whom you have not seen for many, many years. You hear that he has moved to the old family home in the country. It was once a grand house, full of parties, laughter and happiness.

However, something has happened ...

You have never been to this family home and you need to investigate. All you have is the above photograph.

- When do you think this photograph was taken and why?
- Does the house look lived in?
- Why do you think there are no people in the photograph?
- What do you think happened before this photograph was taken?
  - what happened to the servants?
  - why is the garden like this?
  - was there a scandal?
- What do you think happened after this photograph was taken?
  - why do you think your brother has gone here?

Using the below narrative tenses, create a story to answer the above questions.

past simple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• used to describe completed actions in their order:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ A fire broke out and started a panic.</li></ul></li></ul>
past continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• sets the scene: e.g. Everyone was dancing.</li><li>• describes how a long action is interrupted by a single action or event:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ He was buying drinks, when disaster struck.</li></ul></li></ul>
past perfect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• used to describe things that happened before the main narrative or before a certain point in the past:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ He had proposed to me before midnight.</li></ul></li></ul>
past perfect continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• used to describe a repeated action up to the focus of the narrative:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ We had been meeting there every year for 6 years.</li></ul></li><li>• used to describe a continuous action up to the focus of the narrative:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ They had gone out together for several years.</li></ul></li></ul>

To help you, here is the start to the story:

IT WAS many years since I had visited the old family home. So many, in fact, that I had almost forgotten about its existence. Despite it overshadowing our lives, it was forever present but never remembered.

It was located in an isolated part of the country that rarely saw visitors. It was deliberately built there by my great grandfather who valued privacy and seclusion but was not adverse to holding grand parties. When he entertained, his guests were treated with lavish attention to detail and only the best was supplied and given.

However, all this came to an abrupt end. It was not the lack of money nor was it some scandal that rip our family apart and destroyed my family's happiness. It was something more frightening and terrible. So much so that it is never spoken about amongst ourselves.

It started with an photograph that was found in the attic of our current home.