THE "TIME LINE"

The "time line" is a useful diagram to explain how different tenses work together: ${f F}$ U T U **PLUPERFECT IMPERFECT** R \mathbf{E} Actions completed a) Descriptions before another in Past. § action in the Past ¥ b) Uncompleted actions in Past. ± c) Habitual or regular actions in Past. μ **PRESENT** a) Sth. that is **PERFECT** happening now / at (PASSÉ COMPOSÉ) this moment. ⊗ Completed actions in the Past. ¶ b) Sth. that happens regularly AND STILL HAPPENS. ◊

- ¥ He <u>had finished</u> his prep before the film started.
- § The weather <u>was</u> good.
- ± He <u>was watching</u> the film, when the cat exploded.
- μ He <u>watched</u> films <u>on Wednesday evenings</u>.
- The train <u>arrived</u>. He <u>left</u> the train and <u>caught</u> a bus.
- ⊗ I <u>am reading</u> these notes. They <u>are</u> fascinating.
- ♦ I watch films on Wednesday evenings.