



PAST TENSES

PAST SIMPLE, PAST CONTINUOUS, PAST PERFECT



PAST SIMPLE

FORM

[verb] + -ed

- You called Debbie.
- You didn't call Debbie.
- Did you call Debbie?

irregular verbs

- You knew Debbie.
- You didn't know Debbie.
- Did you know Debbie?

USE

1. Finished actions, states or habits in the past
 - I went to the cinema yesterday. (finished time word)
 - Leonardo painted the Mona Lisa. (general knowledge)
 - I've hurt my leg. I fell off a ladder. (introduced by another event)
2. Actions in a story
 - He went to a café. People were chatting and music was playing. He sat down and ordered a coffee.
3. 2ND conditional
 - If I won the lottery, I would buy a house.



PAST CONTINUOUS

FORM

was / were + (not) + present participle

- You were studying when she called.
- You weren't studying when she called.
- Were you studying when she called?

USE

1. Action that overlaps another action or time
 - I was walking down the street when I met John.
 - At 3 o'clock I was working.
2. Background of a story
 - The birds were singing, the sun was shining and in the cafés people were laughing and chatting. Amy sat down and took out her phone.
3. Temporary habits / Annoying habits
 - She was constantly singing.
4. Duration
 - He was reading all afternoon.



PAST PERFECT

SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS

FORM

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

had + (not) + past participle

- You had studied English before you moved to New York.
- You hadn't studied English before you moved to New York.
- Had you studied English before you moved to New York?

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

had + (not) + been + present participle

- You had been waiting there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.
- You hadn't been waiting there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.
- Had you been waiting there for more than two hours when she finally arrived?

USE (Simple)

1. A finished action before a second point in the past
 - When we arrived, the film had started.
 - The film (had) started before we arrived. (When we use words like before and it's clear which action happened first, Past Perfect is optional)
2. An action that started in the past and continued up to another action or time in the past.
 - When he graduated, he had been in London for 6 years.
3. 3rd conditional
 - She would have passed the exam if she had studied harder.

USE (Continuous)

1. An action that started in the past and continued up to another action or time in the past.
 - I had been working at the company for five years when I got the promotion.
2. An action that finished just before another one
 - The pavement was wet, it had been raining.



PASSIVE

ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Active voice:

The professor	taught	the students.
subject	verb	object
doing action		receiving action

Passive voice:

The students	were taught	by the professor.
subject	verb	
receiving action		doing action

Passive voice is used, when the thing or person doing the action is unknown or unimportant, so it is often omitted.

FORM

Past Simple: WAS / WERE + PAST PARTICIPLE

- The car was repaired by Sam.

Past Continuous: WAS / WERE + BEING + PAST PARTICIPLE

- The customer was being helped by the salesman when the thief came into the store.



EXERCISES

Past Simple Form (with the verb 'be'):

- [Past Simple Positive and Negative with 'be'](#)
- [Past Simple Questions with 'be'](#)
- [Past Simple All Forms with 'be' Mixed Exercise](#)

Past Simple Form (with all verbs except 'be'):

- [Past Simple Positive Irregular Verbs \(exercise 1\)](#)
- [Past Simple Positive Irregular Verbs \(exercise 2\)](#)
- [Past Simple Negative](#)
- [Past Simple 'Yes / No' Questions](#)
- [Past Simple 'Wh' Questions](#)
- [Past Simple All Forms Mixed Exercise 1](#)
- [Past Simple All Forms Mixed Exercise 2](#)
- [Past Simple All Forms Mixed Exercise 3](#)
- [Past Simple All Forms Mixed Exercise 4](#)

Past Perfect Continuous or Past Simple:

- [Past Perfect Continuous or Past Simple Exercise 1](#)

Past Perfect or Past Simple?

- [Choose the Past Perfect or the Past Simple](#)

Past Continuous Form:

- [Past Continuous Positive and Negative](#)
- [Past Continuous Questions](#)
- [Past Continuous Mixed Exercise 1](#)
- [Past Continuous Mixed Exercise 2](#)

Past Simple or Past Continuous?:

- [Past Simple or Past Continuous Exercise 1](#)
- [Past Simple or Past Continuous Exercise 2](#)

Past Perfect Simple Form:

- [Past Perfect Simple Positive and Negative](#)
- [Past Perfect Simple Questions](#)

Past Perfect Continuous Form:

- [Past Perfect Continuous Positive](#)
- [Past Perfect Continuous Negative](#)
- [Past Perfect Continuous Questions](#)