**Past Tense**

Any event or action that took place in the past can be referred to as the past tense.

Below we have discussed in detail the four sub parts of past tense in English grammar.

* **Simple Past**

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| **Simple Past Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + V2 + Object** |
| **For example: He ran away**  Here, the subject is “He” and “ran” is the second form of verb (V2) of “run” followed by the object |

* **Past Continuous**

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| **Past Continuous Tense** | |
| **Singular** | **Plural** |
| **Rule: Subject + was + V1 + ing + Object** | **Rule: Subject + were + V1 + ing + Object** |
| **For example: She was going shopping**  Here, the subject is “She” + was  It is followed by the first form of verb (V1) “go” + “ing” and then the object “shopping” | **For example: They were going shopping**  Here, the subject is “They” + were  Followed by the first form of verb (V1) “go” + “ing” and then the object “shopping” |

* **Past Perfect:** We use the past perfect tense to refer to something that occurred before something else.

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| **Past Perfect Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + had + V3 + Object** |
| **For example: Sumit had left the job**  Here the subject is “Sumit” + had  Then “left”, which is the third form of verb (V3) “leave” is given followed by the object |

* **Past Perfect Continuous:** An action that started in the past continued up until another time in the past.

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| **Past Perfect Continuous Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + had been + V1 + ing + Object** |
| **For example: They had been preparing for their performance for two months**  Here the subject  is “They” + had been  It is followed by “preparing”, which is the first form of verb (V1) of “prepare” and then the object |

To help you understand past tense and its form even better, given below are a few examples to simply the concept:

1. I played football yesterday (Simple Past)
2. I was playing football yesterday (Past Continuous for Singular)
3. They were playing football yesterday (Past Continuous for Plural)
4. They had played football yesterday (Past Perfect)
5. They had been playing football the entire yesterday (Past Perfect Continuous).