

English for Beginners

Learn to Speak and Write Confidently

Lesson 3

What Happened
in the Past?



Today's Lesson

- You will explore the different **Past Tenses**
- You will be introduced to **Quantifiers**
- You will learn to make **Requests and Offers**
- You will hone your **Spoken English – Softening Negative Comments**
- You will master the use of **Relative Clauses**
- Summary
- Next Steps
- Q & A



Agenda

Past Tenses

Past Tenses

Where were you born?

I was born in Toronto, **Canada**.

I was born in **Sweden** but I live in **Germany** now.

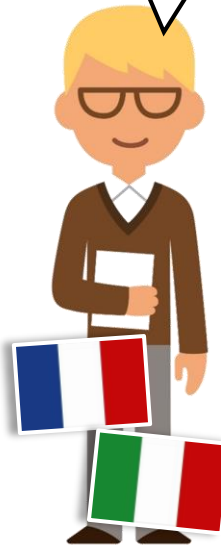
My mother was living in **London** when I was born.

I'm from **France**, but I was actually born in **Italy**.

I was born in **Cairo**, in 1998.

My father and I were born in **South Africa**.

But I was working in **China** when he was born!



Past Simple

Used to talk about a completed past action, fact, or duration of time

Form

Subject + verb(ed) (regular verbs)

Irregular Verbs

Be, Have, Do, Go,
Make, Get, Take,
Put, Sit, Give, Feel,
Say, Leave, Run,
Pay, Send, Speak,
Drive, Buy, etc.

Examples

I watch~~ed~~ a movie yesterday.
Jenny ~~was~~ a quiet child.
They stay~~ed~~ at the beach all day.
The ~~went~~ around the corner.

Negatives & Questions

I ~~did not~~ watch a movie yesterday.
Jenny ~~wasn't~~ a quiet child.

~~Did~~ they ~~stay~~ at the beach all day?
Where ~~did~~ the dog ~~go~~?

Past Continuous

Used to talk about something that was happening in the past, an interrupted action, or the repetition of an action

Form

Subject + be + verb(ing)

was
were

Examples

Mark **was** teach**ing** in Dammam while he was in Saudi.

I **was** listen**ing** to my iPod when he called.

They **were** always com**ing** to class late.

Negatives & Questions

Mark **wasn't** teaching in Riyadh while he was in Saudi.

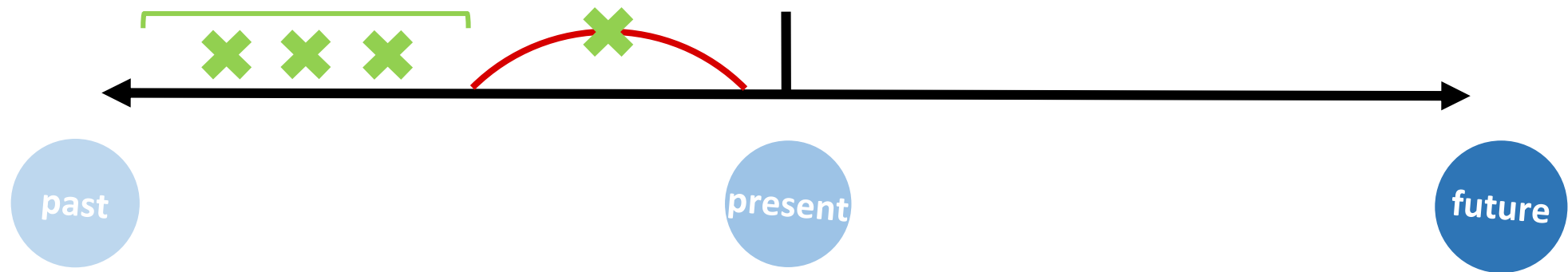
Was I listen**ing** to my iPod when you called?

Were they always com**ing** to class late?

Past Tenses

--- *Past Simple*

--- *Past Continuous*




Which of these sentences is correct?

- Does Mark drive to work yesterday?
- Did Mark drove to work yesterday?
- Does Mark drove to work yesterday?
- Do Mark drive to work yesterday?
- ✓ Did Mark drive to work yesterday?



Quantifiers with Nouns

Quantifiers with Nouns



Could I have
some cake?

Just a little,
please.



Of course.
How much?

No problem.
I have a lot!

Quantifiers with Nouns



Could I have
some cake?

Just **a little**,
please.



Of course.
How **much**?

No problem.
I have **a lot**!

Quantifiers with Nouns

**Can you
count it?**

Countable

a book
one idea
two dogs
three cities
four teams

Uncountable

a bottle of water
one piece of information
two bags of sugar
three litres of oxygen

four dollars money
five minutes time

Examples

How **many** cars have you got?

Do you have **many** classes?

How **much** salt did you use?

I can't sleep because I drank too **much** coffee.



Quantifiers with Nouns

What are they?

Used to give information about the quantity of something
i.e. how many or how much?

Countable

many
a large number of
a number of
numerous
both
a couple of
each
every
either
neither
a few
fewer
several

Uncountable

much
a bit
a little
quite

I have *little* interest in the class.
We made *quite a bit* of money last year.

We have *a large number of* computers in the office.
The company has *several* new courses.

Countable & Uncountable

all
any
enough
less
a lot of
more
most
no
none of
some
quite
very
too
so

I teach *a lot of* classes.
Could you pour me *some* cola?

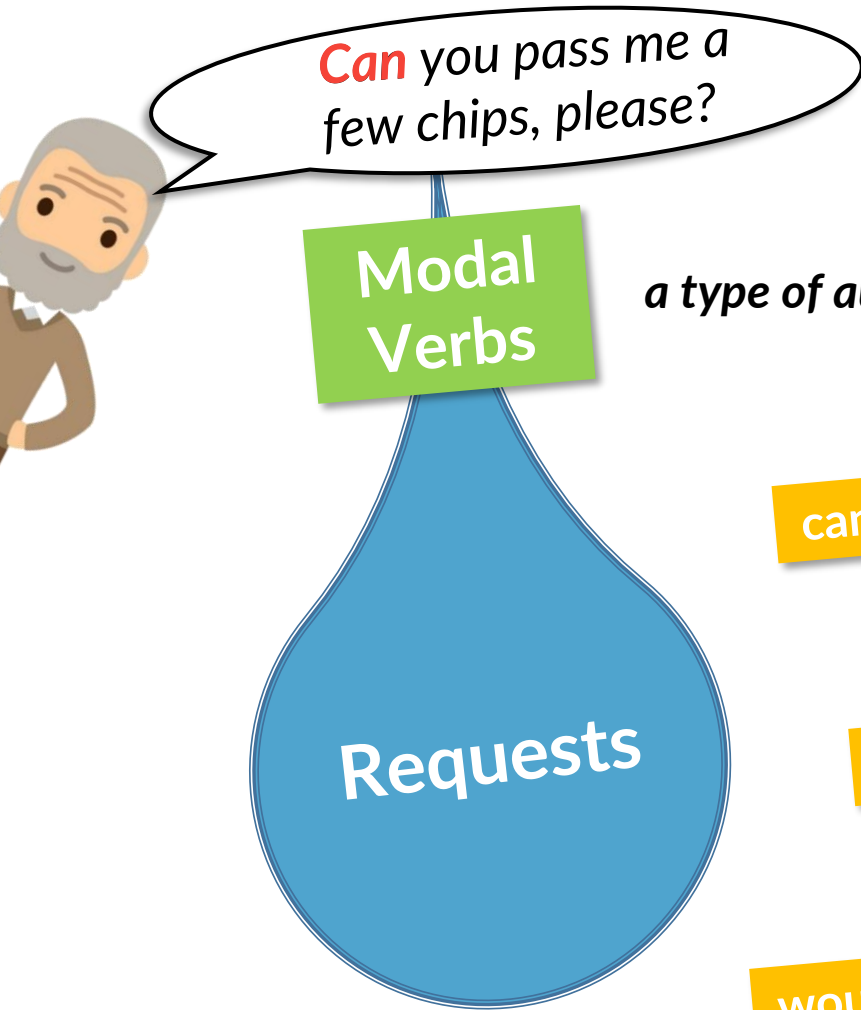
Which of these is not a quantifier?

- few
- quite a lot of
- a little bit
- ✓ **good**
- so many



Requests and Offers

Requests and Offers



a type of auxiliary verb used to add more meaning to the verb

can

"Can I **have** some more rice?"

"Can we **watch** the movie in your house?"

"Can you **hold** the door for me, please?"

could

"Could I **borrow** a bit of money?"

"Could you **tell** me where the train station is, please?"

"Could we **meet** again tomorrow?"

would

"Would you mind **picking** up a couple of bottles on your way home?"

"Would you mind **opening** this jar for me?"

"Would you mind if I **ate** in your car?"

Use the
Quantifiers



Can I help you?

Offers

can

"Can I give you a hand?"
"Can I get you a drink?"
"Can I take your jacket?"

'shall' is
more formal
than 'can'

shall


"Shall I open the window for you?"
"Shall I make a pot of tea?"
"Shall I show you where the shop is?"

would

"Would you like something to drink?"
"Would you like any more food?"
"Would you like me to help you with that?"

colloquial

"How about some coffee?"

- 
- ✓
- Yes please.
 - That would be lovely.
 - I'd love that.
 - If you wouldn't mind.
 - Thanks, that would be great.

- ✗
- No thanks.
 - It's OK, I can do it.
 - Don't worry, I'll do it.
 - I'm fine, thanks.

Which of these sentences is correct?

- Would you mind get me a glass?
- ✓ Would you mind getting me a glass?
- Would you mind to get me a glass?
- Would you mind got me a glass?
- Would you mind gotten me a glass?



Spoken English

Softening Negative Comments

Softening Negative Comments

Remember!

In conversation, we sometimes don't want to sound too negative

Our room is small.

Our room's very small.

It is tiny Peter!

Negative Noel

Our room **isn't very big.**

Well, our room's **a little** small.

OK, it's **quite** small.

Positive Peter

Softening Negative Comments

Tip!

We use quantifiers and positive words to soften these statements



It was expensive.

They're rude.

I earn very little.

The weather was terrible.

We were late landing.



They're **not very friendly**.

It was **a little** expensive.

I **don't** earn **much**.

The weather **wasn't great**.

We were **a bit** late landing.

Which of these is the least negative?

- The exam was quite difficult
- The exam was so difficult
- ✓ The exam wasn't very easy
- The exam was a little difficult
- The exam wasn't easy



Relative Clauses

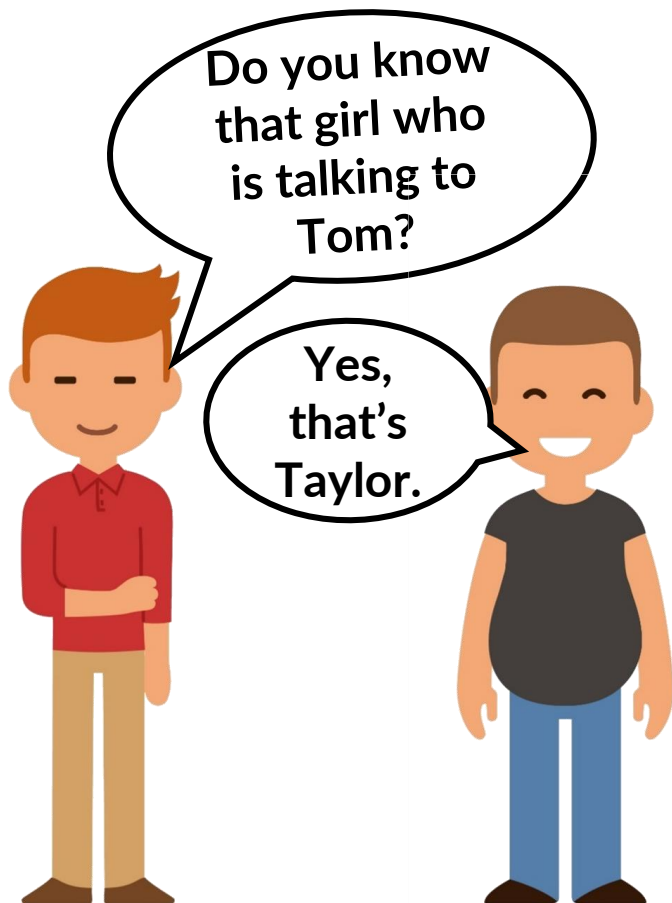
Relative Clauses



Relative Clauses

What are they for?

*They give us information about the subject or the object.
They can make two sentences become one longer sentence.*



Defining
Relative Clause

Non-Defining
Relative Clause



Defining Relative Clauses

- Defines the subject or object
- No commas to separate the sentence
- 'That' can replace 'who' or 'which' - (*more informal*)

Relative Pronouns

*who, whom,
which, that,
where, whose*

Non-Defining Relative Clauses

- Provides additional or extra info about the subject or object
- Commas used to separate the relative clause
- 'That' can't replace 'who' or 'which'

"The man *who is the CEO of Shaw Academy* participated in the 2016 Olympic Games."

"We do not sell the phone *which you bought* anymore."

Examples

"Bill Gates, *who is the founder of Microsoft*, participated in the 2016 Olympic Games."

"The city of Dublin, *where I was born*, will always be special to me."

Which of these is a Non-Defining Relative Clause?

- Unfortunately, employees that work hard aren't rewarded.
- ✓ Steve Jobs, who was the founder of Apple, was extremely creative.
- The man whose children I teach is waiting outside.
- A good boss rewards their workers.





Lesson 3 Summary

- ✓ You explored the different **Past Tenses**
- ✓ You were introduced to **Quantifiers**
- ✓ You learned to make **Requests and Offers**
- ✓ You honed your **Spoken English – Softening Negative Comments**
- ✓ You mastered the use of **Relative Clauses**



- Attend all of the lessons **LIVE** to ask questions in real time and benefit the most
- We're here to help, so contact us anytime!