

Contents

PAST SIMPLE	2
Form	2
spelling	2
Use	2
Adverbials with the simple past tense:	3
PAST CONTINUOUS	4
Form	4
Use	4
SUMMARY	5
PAST PERFECT SIMPLE	6
Form	6
Use	6
SUMMARY	7
Typical Use	7
Typical Conjunctions	7
PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS	8
Form	8
Use	8
Typical Verbs	8
More Examples	9
SUMMARY	9

PAST SIMPLE

Form

- positive: I played tennis yesterday
- negative: Jane didn't visit her friends last week
- question: Did you travel to London last year

be careful with all the irregular verbs

- positive: Tom ran 2 miles yesterday in the morning
- negative: Jane didn't run too fast yesterday because she was too tired
- question: Did the students run at the elementary school at PE

spelling

- *arrive/arrived*: verbs ending in -e add -d: phone/phone
- *wait/waited*: verbs not ending in -e add -ed: ask/asked, follow/followed
- *stop/stopped*: verbs spelt with a single vowel letter followed by a single consonant letter double the consonant: beg/begged, rub/rubbed
- *cry/cried*: when there is a consonant before -y, they change to -i before we add -ed: carry/carried, deny/denied, try/tried, but compare!!! play/played, delay/delayed which have a vowel before -y and therefore simply add -ed in the past

doubling occurs wherever a vowel meets a consonant **except for** *happened*
lmoa

Use

- we normally use the simple past tense to talk about events, actions or situations which occurred in the past and are now finished = COMPLETED ACTIONS e.g. *Sam phoned a moment ago. / I saw Fred in town when I was there this morning. / I never met my grandfather because he is dead*
- we use it when we are usually concerned with when an action occurred, not with its duration (how long it lasted) When did it happen?
- past habit: like USED TO

*Tom used to do the sport every day when he lived in the countryside.
/ Tom didn't use to run every day. / Did he use to play football?*

Tom did the sport every day when he lived in the countryside.

- we can sometimes use the simple past without a time reference to describe something that happened a very short time ago

Did the telephone ring?

Who left the door open?

- it can be used also for polite inquiries = asking for favour, so it doesn't refer to past time

I wonder if you could give me a lift./ I wondered if you could give me a lift

Adverbials with the simple past tense:

- typical adverbials like: **YESTERDAY**, **LAST SUMMER**, combinations with **AGO** = back from now
- it is often used with **WHEN** to ask and answer **WH**- questions
- e.g. When did you learn about it?/ When I saw it in the papers.
- other adverbials can be used when they refer to past time
- e.g. adverbs: always, often, ever/ prepositional phrases: at 4 o'clock, in July, adverbial clauses/ as + adverb + as (as recently as)

PAST CONTINUOUS

Form

- to be in the past = **WAS/WERE** + **VERB - ING**
- positive: *I was playing the piano all the afternoon yesterday.*
- negative: *He wasn't watching the TV while I was cooking.*
- question: *What were you doing last weekend?*

Use

- we use the past continuous to describe the past situations or actions that were in progress at some time in the past
- e.g. *I was living abroad in 1987, so I missed the general election.*
- often we don't know whether the action was completed or not

Jane was working on her essay last night.

- adverbials beginning with **ALL** emphasize the continuity

It was raining all night/ all yesterday/ all the afternoon.

- we use it for actions which began before something else happened: the past progressive describes a situation or action in progress in the past, and the simple past describes a shorter action or event, the action in progress is often introduced by conjunctions like **WHEN/ AS/ JUST AS/ WHILE**

Just as I was leaving the house, the phone rang./ Jane met Frank Sinatra when she was living in Hollywood./ We were having supper when the phone rang.

- **PROGRESSIVE FORM** puts more emphasis on the duration of the action
- e.g. While I was walking at the street, someone stole my wallet.
- **PARALLEL ACTIONS:** we can emphasize the fact that 2 or more actions were in progress at the same time by using while or at the time
- e.g. While I was cooking, my friend was working in the garden.
- **REPEATED ACTIONS:** e.g. When he worked here, Roger was always making mistakes.
- **POLITE INQUIRIES:** it is more polite like past simple
- e.g. I was wondering if you could give me a lift.

SUMMARY

We use the past tenses when we are talking or writing about the past. Past continuous is used for scene-setting. They are used in story-telling, biography, autobiography, reports, eye-witness accounts...

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

Form

HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE (E.G. I HAD DONE)

- positive: *I had arrived to the airport before my friend came to wait me.*
- negative: *Tom hadn't written the letter before he went to the office.*
- question: *Had you waited at the railway station for a long time when I came?*

Use

It is sometimes supposed that we use the past perfect simply to describe events that happened a long time ago it refers to an earlier past:

- the main use of the past perfect is to show which of the two events happened first
 - e.g. *The patient died. The doctor arrived.* / The patient died when the doctor arrived. (= the patient died at the time or just after the doctor arrived)
 - e.g. *The patient had died when the doctor arrived.* (= the patient was already dead when the doctor arrived) ### Typical Conjunctions They refer to an earlier past:
- **WHEN, AFTER, AS SOON AS, BY THE TIME THAT**, adverbs often associated with the present perfect **ALREADY, EVER, FOR, JUST, NEVER, NEVER ... BEFORE, SINCE**

We cleared up as soon as our guests had left.

When I rang, Jim had already left.

The boys loved the zoo. They had never seen wild animals before.

- it is often used as the past form of the present perfect – this is typical in the case of **indirect speech**, e.g.:

Julie is excited because she has never been to a dance before.

Julie was excited because she had never been to a dance before.

- **YET** can be used with the past perfect but we often prefer expressions like **UNTIL THEN, BY THAT TIME**, e.g:

He hasn't finished yet.

He hadn't finished by yesterday evening.

- **it is used for unfulfilled hopes and wishes** - to describe something that we hoped or wished to do but didn't

I had hoped to send him a telegram to congratulate him on his marriage, but I didn't manage it.

SUMMARY

Typical Use

- When we need to be very precise in our use of past or past perfect, particularly with **WHEN**

When I arrived, Anne left. - at that moment – I saw Anne, however briefly
When I arrived, Anne had left. - before I got there – I didn't see her at all

Typical Conjunctions

- **NO SOONER ... THAN**
- **HARDLY**
- **SCARCELY**
- **BARELY ... WHEN**

– *Mr. Smith had hardly begun his speech when he was interrupted.*

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Form

HAD + BEEN + ING VERB form

I had been learning

- positive: *I had been waiting for 2 hours.*
- negative: *I hadn't been waiting at the street.*
- question: *Where had you been waiting for your brother?*

Use

It is used for activities in progress during an earlier past, often with consequences then, we wish to emphasize that an activity had been in progress throughout the period.

She was very tired. She had been typing letters all day.

When I first met Anne, she had been working for Exxon for 15 years.

it emphasizes the repeated activities

Jenny was annoyed. Jim had been phoning her every night for a whole week.

it shows that we have come to a conclusion based on direct or indirect evidence

Her eyes were red. It was obvious she had been crying.

Typical Verbs

- **LEARN**
- **LIE**
- **LIVE**
- **RAIN**
- **SIT**
- **SLEEP**
- **STAND**
- **STUDY**
- **WAIT**
- **WORK**

They suggest continuity and often occur with **SINCE/FOR**.

More Examples

Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window. The sun was shining but the ground was wet. It had been raining.

When I got home, I found that Jill had been painting her room.

- the activity was uncompleted

When I got home, I found that Jill had painted her room.

- the job was definitely finished
-

When I looked out of the window, it had been raining. It has stopped raining by now

When I looked out of the window, it was raining. I could still feel the rain

SUMMARY

- check examples
- **HOW LONG** had something been taking place before something else happened
 - *Ken had been smoking for 30 years when he finally gave it up.*