

- **Past time: past simple, past continuous, past perfect simple, past perfect continuous, would, used to / be/get used to**

Past simple

Form	statement: I/you/he/she/it/we/they played ... negative: I/you/he/she/it/we/they didn't play ... question: Did I/you/he/she/it/we/they play ...?	Note: Irregular verbs do not take 'ed' in the past simple. Learn the past simple form of irregular verbs. See page 194.
Use	Example	
Single completed actions	Tom and I played a game of chess and he won .	
Habits in the past	Did you collect stamps when you were younger?	
Permanent situations in the past	A famous footballer lived in our house before we bought it.	
General truths and facts about the past	Crosswords didn't become popular until the 1930s.	
The main events in a story	The referee blew the whistle and Simon passed the ball to James, who ran towards the goal.	

Watch out!

- We can also use *did* in past simple statements for emphasis.
 - ✓ 'Why didn't you win your match yesterday?' 'I **did** win. Who told you I didn't?'
 - ✓ We lost 5-0 but at least we **did get** into the final.

Past continuous

Form	statement: I/he/she/it was playing ... negative: I/he/she/it wasn't playing ... question: Was I/he/she/it playing ...?	You/we/they were playing ... You/we/they weren't playing ... Were you/we/they playing ...?
Use	Example	
Actions happening at a particular moment in the past	At five o'clock, I was reading my new book.	
Temporary situations in the past	Greg was living in London at the time.	
Annoying past habits (usually with <i>always</i>)	When we were young, my brother was always borrowing my toys.	
Actions in progress over a period of time	Daniel was playing video games all morning yesterday.	
Two actions in progress at the same time	Were Ulla and her friends playing Monopoly while we were playing Draughts?	
Background information in a story	The sun was shining and the birds were singing . Lisa opened the window and looked out.	

Watch out!

- When one action in the past interrupts another action in progress, we use the past simple and the past continuous together.
 - ✓ I **was playing** on my computer when it suddenly **crashed**.
- We do **not** use the past continuous for regular or repeated actions in the past.
 - ✓ When we were on holiday, we **played** volleyball every day.
 - ✗ ~~When we were on holiday, we **were playing** volleyball every day.~~
- We do not usually use stative verbs in continuous tenses. See Unit 1, page 7.

Past perfect simple

Form	<i>had</i> + past participle	
Use	Example	
Situations and states before the past	We'd lived next to the gym for a couple of months before I decided to join.	
Completed actions before a moment in the past	I'd already bought the computer game when I saw it was cheaper in another shop.	
Completed actions where the important thing is the result at a moment in the past	We didn't feel like playing Scrabble because we had just finished a long game of Monopoly.	