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## GRAMMAR

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### - Rule #9 -

#### ➤ Verb Tenses

Verbs have three tenses: past, present and future.

The past tense describes things that have already happened e.g., earlier today, yesterday, last week, or three years ago.

The present tense describes things that are happening or in progress.

The future tense describes things that have not yet happened e.g., later, tomorrow, next week, next year, in three years.

#### **Past Tense**

In general, we use past tense verbs to denote and refer to the states or actions that have occurred in the past. Typically, these verbs indicate that an action or condition began in the past. Depending on the type of past tense verb we use, we can also indicate that the action or condition ended or did not end in the past and is continuing at this time. Some of the reasons we use past tense verbs are:

- State an action/state that started and ended in the past
- Say that a past action/state happened before another past action/state
- Explain that a past action/state was the cause of another action/state
- Saying a past action/state was in progress while something else was happening

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- Saying that a past action/state occurred over a period of time before being interrupted or completed
- Saying that an action/state started in the past and did not stop in the present either

They are further divided into the following tenses:

### 1. Simple Past:

The simple past is a verb form used to talk about things that happened or existed before. Imagine someone asking you what you were doing last night. The simple past indicates that you are talking about something that has already happened.

To make them for regular verbs, add -ed to the root form of the verb (or just -d if the root form already ends in an e).

Examples:

- Make → Made
- Type → Typed
- Listen → Listened
- Push → Pushed
- Love → Loved

### 2. Past Perfect:

The past perfect tense is used to talk about something that happened before something else.

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So, what is the difference between Past Perfect and Simple Past? If you're talking about a time in the past and want to refer to an event that happened even earlier, you can use the past perfect to convey the sequence of events. It is also clearer and more precise.

Most often, the reason for writing a verb in the past tense is to show that it occurred before other actions in the same sentence that are described by verbs in the past simple. It's unusual to write an entire paragraph with each verb in the past tense.

The formula for the past perfect tense is had + [past participle]. It doesn't matter if the subject is singular or plural; the formula doesn't change.

Don't use the past perfect unless you're trying to convey a sequence of events.

Example:

- After Mary had finished her work, she went to lunch.
- I washed the floor when the gardener had gone.
- Harry had known about it for a while.
- I didn't say anything until he had finished talking.
- After she had moved out, I found her notes.
- Before I knew it, she had run out the door.

### 3. Past Continuous:

The past, also known as the past, describes actions taking place in the past, for example, I was writing my research paper all night. It uses the same construction as in the present tense except with the past tense of the verb to be.

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The past indicates a continuing action that started in the past. It is the past tense version of the present continuous, which also describes ongoing actions. The present and the past continuous are very similar, but the uses of the past continuous were and were, the past tense of being.

The past continuous tense formula involves the past tense of to be (was or were) and the present participle of the verb, the -ing form.

Examples:

- It was snowing yesterday.
- They were eating at the restaurant.
- You were working yesterday.
- I was studying last night.
- I was waiting for the cab when I met Rita.
- The children were shouting when the teacher came in.
- It was midnight when it was raining.
- Everyone was clapping.

#### 4. Past Perfect Continuous:

The past perfect continuous tense shows that an action that began in the past continued at another time in the past. Unlike the present perfect continuous, which indicates an action that began in the past and continued in the present, the past perfect continuous is a verb form that indicates something that started in the past, continued in the past, and also ended at some time point in the past. The past perfect continuous tense is constructed using had been + the verb's present participle (root + -ing).

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Examples:

- I had been working at the office for six years when I got the promotion.
- I had been writing articles on various topics for six hours.
- She had been reading different kinds of books since morning.
- They had been playing football on that field before it started to rain.
- Seth had been gossiping in the coffee shop for two hours.

