

# TENSES: PART 1

---

## PRESENT & PAST TENSES

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## WHAT IS «TIME, ASPECT, AND TENSE»?

---

WHAT IS «TIME»?

1. Present Time
  - ✓ «Future» is part of the Present time!
2. Past Time
  - Present and Future time are compatible with each other.
  - Present and Past time are not compatible with each other.

WHAT IS «ASPECT»?

1. Simple Aspect : expresses a «General» meaning.
2. Continuous Aspect: expresses «Continuity, progressive» meaning.
3. Perfect Aspect : expresses a «relationship or connection between two times».

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## MEANING HIDDEN IN TENSE NAMES

---

### TIME + ASPECT = TENSE

So, how many tenses are there in English?

1. Simple Present Tense (general present)
2. Simple Past Tense (general past)
  - a. I did (one time)
  - b. I used to do (general/habitual)
3. Present Continuous (am/is/are + Ving)
4. Past Continuous Tense (was/were + Ving)
5. Present Perfect (have/has + V3) (connection between Present and Past)
6. Past Perfect (had + V3) (connection between two Past events)

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## MEANING HIDDEN IN TENSE NAMES - 2

---

7. Present Perfect Continuous (have/has been + Ving)
8. Past Perfect Continuous (had been + Ving)
9. Will future (will + V1)
10. Be going to future (am/is/are going to + V1)
11. Future Continuous (will be + Ving)
12. Future Perfect (will have + V3)
13. Future Perfect Continuous (will have been + Ving)

© Ülkü Küçükakın

# 1. SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

---

Functions:

a. General truth / scientific facts

- ✓ The weather usually **gets** warmer before it **snows** in winter.
- ✓ Dollar and other foreign currencies **rise** in times of economic crisis, and this **causes** a bad cash flow in many companies.

b. Personal habits and daily routines

- ✓ I usually **check** my emails in the evening.
- ✓ Our teacher **smiles** at us all the time.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE: COMMON TIME EXPRESSIONS - 1

---

- Adverbs of frequency: Always – Usually – Often – Sometimes – Rarely – Never
- all the time = always  
every time ≠ always (e.g. My daughter watches TV **all the time**.)
- occasionally = sometimes
- (every) now and then = (every) now and again = sometimes
- seldom = almost never = rarely
- every other day

!!! These time expressions can also be used in Simple Past Tense.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY

- Adverbs of frequency commonly used in Simple Present Tense:

%0	%25	%50	%75	%100
<b>Never</b>	Almost never <i>Rarely</i> <i>Barely</i> <i>Hardly ever</i> <i>Seldom</i>	<i>Occasionally</i> Sometimes At times <i>(Every) now and then</i> <i>(Every) now and again</i> From time to time	Usually Generally Mostly Most of the time Often Frequently	Always All the time Every week/ year / day....

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE: A POEM

### Love Defined by Sharon Hendricks



How do you define love?  
Is it a loving look, a warm smile?  
Is it a warm hug on a cold night,  
A warm cup of cocoa by the fire?  
Or is it someone bringing soup when one is sick?  
Love is all of these things and more.  
Love is what I feel for you, now and always  
And love is what I give to you now.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## 2. PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

---

**Structure: am/is/are + Ving**

Function:

- a. For events happening now and for events happening temporarily around now.
  - ✓ My roommate **is watching** TV now.
  - ✓ My roommate **is studying** Spanish this semester. (temporarily/around now)
- b. For personal and close future plans.
  - ✓ I **am seeing** a movie tonight. Would you like to join?
  - ✓ We **are moving** our house this summer.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PRESENT CONT. TENSE: COMMON TIME EXPRESSIONS

---

- now = at the moment
- nowadays = these days
- for the time being = for now (for temporary events)
  - ✓ Tom is living with us **for the time being**.
- still
  - ✓ Ted **is still preparing** for the party.
- *A SONG: I am sailing; by Rod Stewart*

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## STATE VERBS

---

- Verbs that express a state or an opinion are called «**state verbs**». These verbs do not express an action or an event.

e.g. love / think / seem

- State verbs are not used with Continuous Tenses.
  - ✓ I **love** horror films. ✓ I **am loving** horror films. XX
  - ✓ This idea **sounds** perfect. ✓ This idea **is sounding** perfect. XX

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## MOST COMMON STATE VERBS

---

- |            |                    |          |
|------------|--------------------|----------|
| • know     | believe            | remember |
| understand | like / love / hate | prefer   |
| need       | want               | wish     |
| contain    | agree / disagree   | mean     |
| promise    | hear               | seem     |
| sound      | look like          |          |

© Ülkü Küçükakın



## OTHER STATE VERBS

---

- *appreciate*: value and respect sth or smt. (e.g. I **appreciate** your help.)
- *doubt*: feel not sure about (e.g. Most people **doubt** his innocence.)
- *mind*: be annoyed or worried by (e.g. I **don't mind** waiting for him here.)
- *belong to smt*: be the property of smt (e.g. This bag **belongs to** me.)
- *desire*: want something strongly (e.g. My son **desires** a career in arts.)
- *consist of sth*: be composed or made up of (e.g. Our team **consists of** 2 professional players.)
- *resemble*: look like smt (e.g. Your son **resembles** his uncle.)

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## AN EXCEPTION...

---

- Some of these verbs can sometimes express an action or event in a different meaning. They can be used with Continuous Tenses in this case.
  - ✓ I **think** Susan will be very successful at university. (meaning: «in my opinion»)
  - I **am thinking of** moving my house to somewhere warmer. (meaning: «consider»)
  - I **am thinking about** all the things he told me.
  - ✓ I **have** a red bag. (meaning: «own; possess»)
  - I **am having** breakfast.
  - I **am having** a shower.
  - We **are having** a break.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## AN IMPORTANT POINT...

---

- State verbs cannot be used in Continuous Tenses, but they can be used in «Ving» form.

✓ I **love** my job. ✓✓ I **am loving** my job. XX

✓ **Loving your job** is important to be successful. ✓✓

✓ You cannot be successful without **loving your job**. ✓✓

-----  
✓ I **know** the answer to this question. ✓✓ I **am knowing** the answer. XX

✓ **Knowing your talents** helps in your career. ✓✓

✓ You will be happier by **knowing** your true friends and enemies. ✓✓

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## VERBS THAT DESCRIBE OUR SENSES

---

- Verbs that describe **the actions of our senses** can express both a state or an action with a difference in meaning.

✓ This meal **tastes** great!

I **am tasting** your meal.

✓ These flowers **smell** wonderful.

The dog **is smelling** the food.

✓ This picture **looks** amazing.

I **am looking** at the picture.

!! The verbs «feel» and «sound» are usually used as state verbs.

✓ I **feel** great today.

✓ This plan **sounds** fine to me.

© Ülkü Küçükakın



## SIMPLE PRESENT & PRESENT CONTINUOUS: A SONG

---

### The Road to Hell (by Chris Rea)

Well I'm **standing** by a river but the water **doesn't flow**

It **boils** with every poison you can think of.

And I'm underneath the streetlights

But the light of joy I **know**

Scared beyond belief way down in the shadows.

And the perverted fear of violence **chokes** a smile on every face

And common sense **is ringing** out the bells.

This **ain't (isn't)** no technological breakdown

Oh no, this **is** the road to hell.

## 3. SIMPLE PAST TENSE

---

Functions:

- a. One-time events that happened in the past:
  - ✓ I **saw** Abby at the supermarket yesterday.
- b. Events that lasted a long time in the past:
  - ✓ Lionel Messi **played** for Barcelona between 2005 and 2021.
  - ✓ I **lived** in New Delhi for 5 years.
- c. For past habits:
  - ✓ I **usually walked** to work when I lived in Cordoba.
  - ✓ Ancient people **made** tools from stones.
  - ✓ This factory **produced** bags 20 years ago. [ = **used to + V1** ]

© Ülkü Küçükakın

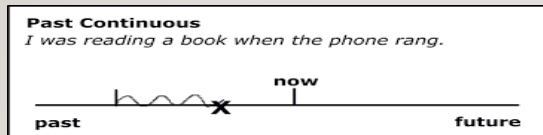
## SIMPLE PAST TENSE: COMMON TIME EXPRESSIONS

- ...ago (...3 years / 5 months ago)
- last month / year / millenium
- for 5 weeks / 3 months

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## 4. PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

- **Structure : was / were + Ving**
  - Function:
    - Past Continuous Tense is used for an action in progress when another action happens in the past. A continuous action is interrupted by another action in the past.
- ✓ I **was having** a bad dream when my brother **woke** me up.



© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE - FUNCTION

---

- b. Past Continuous Tense is also used when two actions are in progress at the same time in the past.
  - ✓ While Liam **was swimming** in the sea, his parents **were reading** a book on the beach.
- c. Past Continuous Tense is used for an action in progress at a specific time in the past.
  - ✓ I **was driving** home at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## AN IMPORTANT POINT...

---

- We use Past Continuous Tense only when there are at least two actions, or one action and a specific time in the past.
  - ✓ I was listening to music when the doorbell rang.
  - ✓ I was listening to music at 7 o'clock yesterday.

VERSUS

- ✓ I **listened** to music yesterday evening.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## AN IMPORTANT POINT - 2...

---

- We cannot use Past Continuous Tense to talk about our past habits.

✓ I **was biting** my nails when I was a child. XX

✓ I **bit** my nails when I was a child. ✓✓

-----  
✓ Ottoman Empire **was giving** importance to tolerance. XX

✓ Ottoman Empire **gave** importance to tolerance. ✓✓

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## WHEN & WHILE

---

- Linkers «when» and «while» are commonly used in Simple Past and Past Continuous tenses.
- «When» can be used with both tenses, but «while» is used mostly with Past Continuous Tense.

✓ I **stopped** my car when I **saw** the accident.

✓ I **was driving** home when I **saw** the accident.

✓ I **saw** an accident when / while I **was coming** home.

✓ My daughter **was eating** a sandwich at the back seat when / while I **was driving** home.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## AS = WHILE

---

- The linker «as» can also mean «while».
  - ✓ I **saw** an accident **as** I **was coming** home.
  - ✓ My daughter **was eating** a sandwich at the back seat **as** I **was driving** home.

## COMPARE...

---

- Let's compare the two sentences below in terms of meaning.
  - ✓ My family **was eating** the cake when I **arrived** home.
  - ✓ My family **ate** the cake when I **arrived** home.

-----

  - ✓ My brother **was doing** his homework when his friend **called**.
  - ✓ My brother **did** his homework when his friend **called**.



## WAS / WERE GOING TO

---

- **Structure:** «was/were going to + V1»
- **Function:** To talk about plans made in the past. It usually expresses unfulfilled past plans.
  - ✓ I **was going to call** you, but I was too busy.  
= It was my plan to call you, but...
  - ✓ The referee **was going to cancel** the match, but it stopped raining.  
= The referee was planning to cancel the match, but...

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## 5. PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

---

- **Structure :** have / has + V3
- **Functions:**
  - For STATES that started in the past and still continue.
    - ✓ I **have known** him all my life.
    - ✓ She **has always loved** calm and peaceful activities.
    - ✓ Judy **has had** weight problems all her life.

!!! The expressions «all my life / all her life» are commonly used in this function.

- ✓ I **have travelled** from one country to another all my life.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## SINCE & FOR

---

- «Since» and «for» also commonly express states that started in the past and still continue.
- «Since» tells us WHEN the state started.
- «For» tells us HOW LONG the state has lasted.
  - ✓ Robert has been a researcher in our lab for 5 years. VERSUS
  - ✓ Robert has been a researcher in our lab since 2017.
  - ✓ Wyatt has lived in France for 12 years.
  - ✓ Wyatt has lived in France since 2010.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## SINCE & FOR – 2

---

- «Since» can also be followed by a sentence in Simple Past Tense.
- Then, the sentence is structured as «**Since + S. Past, Present Perfect.**»
  - ✓ Jason **has treated** me badly ever since I first **met** him.
  - ✓ Since she **appeared** in her first film, she **has received** a lot of appraisal.
  - ✓ Matthew **has worked** in this company since he **graduated** from university.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## SINCE & FOR – 3

---

- «Since» has two different meanings:
  1. since: As a Time expression: «**Since + S. Past, Pr. Perfect (cont.)**»
  2. since = as / because: no tense limitations.
    - ✓ Since there is no doctor in the hospital now, we must find another place.
    - ✓ I could not keep the business going since it did not make any money at all.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## SINCE & FOR – 4

---

- «For» can also be used in other tenses.
  1. for: (Pr. Perf. / Pr. Perfect Cont.)
    - ✓ This school **has been** the top school in town for the last 25 years.
  2. for: (S. Past / Future Tenses / Past Perf. / Past Perf. Cont.)
    - ✓ I **investigated** the reasons for inequality in England for 2 years.
    - ✓ I **will spend** some pleasant time in Bali for 3 weeks.
    - ✓ This building **had been used** only for leisure activities for 10 years before it was demolished.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## FOR + TIME EXPRESSION

---

- More examples with «for + time expression»:
- a. With Simple Past Tense:
  - ✓ I **lived** in Brazil for five years.
- b. With Past Perfect (Cont.) Tense:
  - ✓ I **had lived** in Brazil for five years when we decided to move to Argentina.
  - ✓ I **had been living** in Brazil for five years when we decided to move to Argentina.
- c. With Future Tense:
  - ✓ I **will live** in Brazil for 5 years.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## FOR + TIME EXPRESSION

---

- d. With Present Perfect (Cont.):
  - ✓ I **have lived** in Aydın for five years.
  - ✓ I **have been living** in Aydın for five years.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

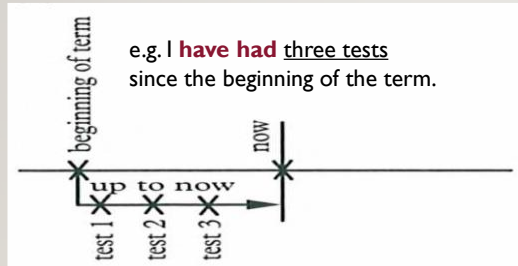
## PRESENT PERFECT – FUNCTION #2

- a. For STATES that started in the past and still continue.  
with «all my life» & «since/for»
- b. for our LIFE EXPERIENCES:
  - with the following expressions:
- b1. **never / ever**
  - ✓ A. Have you **ever** been on a tropical island?
  - B. I **have never been** on a tropical island.
  - ✓ Turkey **has never hosted** a World Cup.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## EXPRESSIONS USED IN PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

- b2. It is common to use **a number** while talking about experiences:
  - ✓ J. K. Rowling **has written** more than 20 books.
  - ✓ Michael **has been** to more than seven countries so far.



© Ülkü Küçükakın



## EXPRESSIONS USED IN PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

---

- «**So far / thus far / up to now / until now / till now**» can also be used when talking about experiences with Present Perfect Tense:
  - ✓ Our professor **has assigned** only two projects thus far.
  - ✓ We **have fixed** four cars until now.
  - ✓ Dr. Stephen **has seen** about 20 patients till now.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## EXPRESSIONS USED IN PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

---

### b3. **already / yet**

- «**already**» is used mostly in questions and positive sentences.
- «**yet**» is used mostly in questions and negative sentences.
  - ✓ A. **Have you interacted** with the local patients yet?  
**Have you already interacted** with the local patients?
  - B. I **haven't interacted** with them yet.
  - OR
  - B. I **have already treated** more than 200 of them.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## EXPRESSIONS USED IN PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

---

b4. «**Before**» expresses an experience at the end of the sentence:

- ✓ I **haven't talked** to a native speaker of English before.
- ✓ Samuel **has never seen** a ballet performance before.

b5. «**Ordinal numbers**» can also be used to talk about an experience:

- ✓ This is the third time I **have seen** him smoking.
- ✓ This is the first time I **have seen** a horror film.

b6. «**Superlatives**» can also be used to talk about an experience:

- ✓ This is the fastest car I **have driven** in my life.
- ✓ This is the most delicious meal I **have eaten** recently.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## EXPRESSIONS THAT EXPRESS AN EXPERIENCE

---

- !!! In summary, when we are talking about an experience using Present Perfect Tense, we can use...

« ever / never /

- so far / thus far / up to now / until now / till now /
- already / yet /
- before.»

- Besides, «ordinal numbers» and «superlatives» can also be used with Present Perfect Tense.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PRESENT PERFECT TENSE; EXPERIENCES: A POEM

---

### MOUNT EVEREST

You have seen the dawn of time,  
 You have heard the howl of Yeti,  
 You have known the footsteps of men.

You have known the struggle of climbers,  
 You have heard their gasps for breath,  
 You have seen the trash they left.

You have heard the weeping of widows,  
 You have seen the courage of rescuers,  
 You have known the glory of summiteers.

## PRESENT PERFECT – FUNCTIONS

---

- c. For actions completed a very short time ago, we use Present Perfect Tense with the time expression «**just**».
  - ✓ The pizza **has just arrived**, so it is still hot.
  - ✓ The victim **has just identified** the suspect.
- d. We use Present Perfect Tense when the time of the action is still true.
  - ✓ Our team **has won** only four matches this season.
  - ✓ I **have taken** 12 courses this year.
  - ✓ I **haven't seen** Tim today.

## PRESENT PERFECT – FUNCTIONS

---

- e. For actions that were recently completed, and the EFFECTS of the action are still visible to us:

- ✓ Oh! You've **had** a haircut. You look great!
- ✓ I've **painted** my living room in light blue.
- ✓ They've **finally fixed** the roads on our streets. Now, it feels more comfortable to drive.
- ✓ Susan **has finally recovered** from her flu.

!!! We do NOT tell when an action was completed in Present Perfect Tense. If we want to give the exact time it was completed, we use Simple Past Tense.

- ✓ I **painted** my living room in light blue **last weekend**.

- A MOVIE CLIP: *They Live* (1988)

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PRESENT PERFECT – FUNCTIONS

---

- For actions that were recently completed, and the EFFECTS of the action are still visible to us:

« I **have come** here to chew bubblegum and kick ass. And I'm all out of bubblegum... »

## PRESENT PERFECT TENSE – TIME EXPRESSIONS

---

- Other time expressions that are commonly used with Present Perfect Tense are:
- «**ever since**»:  
 ✓ He **has become** a little arrogant **ever since** he **got** that fancy job.
- «**since then**»:  
 ✓ Abigail **moved** to India five years ago. I **haven't seen or talked** to her since then.  
 ✓ My grand-grandfather **bought** this land more than 200 years ago. It **has been** our family's property since then.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PRESENT PERFECT TENSE – TIME EXPRESSIONS

---

- «**to date**»: until now.  
 ✓ Interest rates **have grown** by 8% this year to date.  
 ✓ To date, Henry **has changed** about five jobs.
- «**recently = lately**»:  
 ✓ I **have felt** really energetic lately.  
 ✓ There **have been** many unexpected delays in departures recently.

© Ülkü Küçükakın



## PRESENT PERFECT TENSE – TIME EXPRESSIONS

---

- in the last / past      2 years
- over the last / past      5 months
- for the last / past      4 weeks, etc.

- ✓ Today's event **has been** the greatest funding event in the last 20 years.
- ✓ For the past five years, Sergei **has been** a full-time international trader.
- ✓ Over the last 20 years, this neighborhood **has not changed** much.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PRESENT PERFECT TENSE – A SHORT SUMMARY

---

- Functions:
  1. for STATES that started in the past and still continue.
  2. for LIFE EXPERIENCES.
  3. for actions that were completed a very short time ago (with «just»).
  4. for actions that were completed in a time that is still true.
  5. for actions that were recently completed and whose EFFECTS are still visible.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PRESENT PERFECT TENSE – A SHORT SUMMARY

---

- Common time expressions:

1. since / for
2. all my/her life
3. ever / never
4. ordinal numbers
5. already / yet
6. just

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PRESENT PERFECT TENSE – A SHORT SUMMARY

---

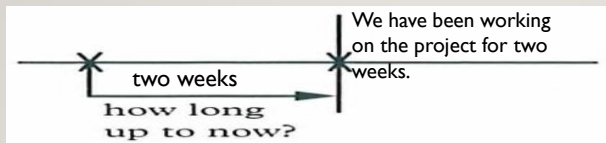
- Time expressions (cont.):

7. before
8. so far / thus far / up to now / to date / until now / till now
9. this year / this month / today, etc.
10. ever since + svo / since then
11. recently / lately
12. in the last 5 years... / over the past 2 months... / for the past 3 weeks...

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## 6. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

- **Structure: have / has been + Ving**
- Function: For ACTIONS, EVENTS and ACTIVITIES that started in the past and still continue.
  - ✓ It **has been raining** since 2 o'clock.
  - ✓ Ted **has been talking** about his vacation for about three hours.



© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS – TIME EXPRESSIONS

- Time expressions used with Present Perfect Continuous:
  1. since / for
    - ✓ Gwyneth **has been practicing** violin since 7 in the morning / for 4 hours.
    - ✓ Gwyneth **has been practicing** violin since she woke up.
  2. ever since + svo
    - ✓ Ted **has been playing** with the same numbers ever since he **won** the lottery 24 years ago.
  3. since then
    - ✓ We lost terribly against the Hawks 5 weeks ago, but we **have been playing** much better since then.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS – TIME EXPRESSIONS – 2

---

4. recently / lately
  - ✓ He **has been telling** too many lies lately.
5. in the last 5 years... / over the past 2 months... / for the past 3 weeks...
  - ✓ Over the past 5 years, we **have been testing** new ways to improve sporting performance without chemical drugs.
  - ✓ Our newspaper **has been publishing** stories by young authors for the last 15 years.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## AN IMPORTANT POINT...

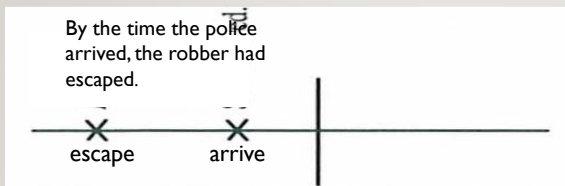
---

- When we are **talking about our personal and professional lives**, some verbs can be used both with Present Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous without a change in meaning:
  - ✓ I **have lived** in Tehran for 15 years.  
= I **have been living** in Tehran for 15 years.
  - ✓ My sister **has taught** chemistry at university since 2007.  
= My sister **has been teaching** chemistry at university since 2007.
  - ✓ I **have done** sports since I was a little child.  
= I **have been doing** sports since I was a child.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## 7. PAST PERFECT TENSE

- **Structure : had + V3**
- Function : For **an activity that was completed before another activity** or a time in the past.



© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PAST PERFECT TENSE

- Examples:
  - ✓ I **had slept** last night by the time you **called** me.
  - ✓ I **had slept** by 11 o'clock last night.
  - ✓ The service bus **had left** by the time my son **left** home.
  - ✓ The service bus **had left** by 8 a.m.

© Ülkü Küçükakın



## PAST PERFECT TENSE – TIME EXPRESSIONS

---

- Time expressions:

1. by

- ✓ Internet **had become** widespread in the USA by 1995.
- ✓ By the 20th century, Spain's golden ages **had disappeared** completely.

2. by the time + Simple Past, Past Perfect

- ✓ Our room **had been sold** to someone else by the time I **finished** booking online.
- ✓ By the time we **got** there, the concert **had already started**.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PAST PERFECT TENSE – TIME EXPRESSIONS

---

3. after / before

- We mostly use «after / before» with Simple Past or Past Continuous Tenses.
- However, when we want to underline which event happened first and which one happened next, we can use «after / before» with Past Perfect Tense.
  - ✓ The experts **came** to the building after I **detected** a gas leakage.  
=The experts **came** to the building after I **had detected** a gas leakage.
  - ✓ Before we **left** the house, I **checked** all the doors and everything.  
= Before we **left** the house, I **had checked** all the doors and everything.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

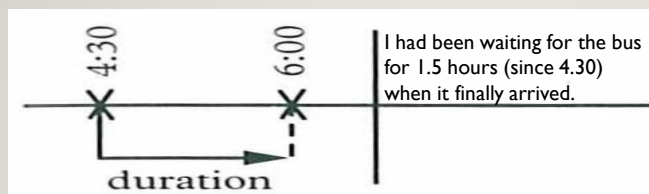
## AN IMPORTANT POINT...

- In Reported speech, we use Past Perfect to report a sentence that was originally formed in Present Perfect or Simple Past Tense:
- ✓ Bill : «I **have talked** to the boss.»  
Bill said that he **had talked** to the boss.
- ✓ Zola : «The teacher **did not give** us any homework today.»  
Zola told me that the teacher **had not given** us any homework that day.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## 8. PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

- **Structure : had been + Ving**
- **Function :** We use Past Perfect Continuous to underline *the duration of an activity that was in progress* before another *activity or time* in the past.



© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE - 2

---

- Examples:

- ✓ I **had been playing** World of Warcraft for 12 hours straight when/before my mother finally **came** and **shouted** at me!
- ✓ Gunther **had been working** in this coffee house since 1992 when they **decided** to fire him last year.

!!! In both sentences, the «process (duration)» are underlined. The answer to «how long...» is given.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS – TIME EXPRESSIONS

---

- Time expressions used with Past Perfect Continuous:

- **for / since**

- ✓ Nicolae Ceausescu **had been ruling** Romania for 24 years (since 1965) when he and his wife **were executed** in 1989.
- ✓ They **had been running** their business since 1993, but they **went** bankrupt in 2007.

- **before / when**

- ✓ I **had been living** in Japan for 15 years when/before I **decided** to move back to Korea.
- ✓ Naomi **had been working** as a reporter for 15 years when/before she **started** writing her own columns in the newspaper.

!!! «**process**» and «**duration**» are underlined in all these examples.

© Ülkü Küçükakın

## AN IMPORTANT POINT...

---

- In Reported speech, Past Continuous and Present Perfect Continuous Tenses are reported in Past Perfect Continuous Tense:

✓ Wesley : «I **have been talking** on the phone for 45 minutes.»

Wesley said that he **had been talking** on the phone for 45 minutes.

✓ Sam : «I **was driving** home at 5 yesterday.»

Sam told me that he **had been driving** home at 5 the day before.

© Ülkü Küçükakın