The Past Tense



Quick questions!



- When did you learn to write?
- Where did you go during the summer vacations?
- What was the last book you read?

What tense did you use to answer these questions?

Answer: the Past Tense

Uses of the Past Tense

1. To talk about something that happened in the past.

- I studied at a boarding school in Chennai while my parents lived in Hyderabad.
- The farmer sold all his harvest.
- The big kite and the little kite were flying proudly in the sky.
- We had walked till we reached the pier.
- The workers had been counting the goods in batches.
- Genghis Khan was a Mongol emperor.



Uses of the Past Tense

2. To talk about something that was true for some time in the past:

- I lived in Delhi for fifteen years.
- She had studied German when she was in class 5.
- Sheena had been working at the big store in the evenings to fund her studies.
- My family and I had visited Cambodia last year.



The Four Forms of the Past Tense

Past simple	I studied.
Past continuous	I was studying.
Past perfect	I had studied.
Past perfect continuous	I had been studying.



The Simple Past

You always use the simple past when you say **when** something happened, so it is associated with certain **past time expressions**.

- **a definite point in time**: *last week, when I was a child, yesterday, six weeks ago, at 7 pm, etc.*
  -We **saw** a movie *yesterday.*
  -We **explored** many places in Rajasthan *last year*.
  -I **went** to the park at *5'o clock.*



The Simple Past

frequency: *often, sometimes, always*

I *sometimes* **walked** to Fiona's house.
I *often* **took** my pet kitten to Grandma's home.

- **an indefinite point in time**: *the other day, ages ago, a long time ago*

People **wrote** on scrolls and quills a *long time ago*.
Rohan **played** football *when he was a boy.*



The Past Continuous

This form of past tense describes actions or events that began in the past and is **still going on** at the time of speaking.

- It expresses an **unfinished or incomplete action.**

Examples:

- The sun **was shining** brightly.
- The bells **were ringing** loudly.
- I **was reading** a book in the morning.



The Past Perfect Tense

Expresses that something occurred **before another action** in the past. It can also show that something happened before a specific time in the past.

Examples: Event A + Event B

Event A: Rani had left,	**Event B:** when I arrived at her house.
Event A: I had saved some money	**Event B:** because I wanted to buy a new bike.
Event B: When they joined us,	**Event A:** we had finished dinner.



Past Perfect Continuous

This form of past tense Corresponds to a time earlier than 'before now'.

- As with the present perfect continuous, we are more interested in the process.

FORM = [had been + present participle]

- The boys had been waiting for over an hour before the coach arrived.
- Gurpreet had been using that library for years before it shut down.



Forming the Past Perfect Continuous

Subject	had been	verb + ing
I	had been	reading.
Affirmative		
She	had been	running.
Negative		
She	hadn't been	studying.
Interrogative		
Had you	been	sleeping?
Interrogative negative		
Hadn't they	been	shifting?



Your Turn to Try

Fill in the blanks with the suitable past tense forms of the verbs in brackets.

1. Meena ……(walk) for hours in the rain when suddenly she ……..(see) a house in the distance.
2. The bells ……(ring) in the distance as we……..(approach) the little town square.
3. Abhay …… (jump) out of bed, startled, as light ……. (flood) into the room.
4. Shakti …… (called) the electricity board as soon as the lights went out.
5. Soham …… (work) at the bank ever since he …….. (pass) out of college.