

# The Past Tense

There are **four past** tense **forms**:

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The past simple tense       | <b>I worked.</b>           |
| 2. The past continuous tense   | <b>I was working.</b>      |
| 3. The past perfect tense      | <b>I had worked.</b>       |
| 4. The past perfect continuous | <b>I had been working.</b> |

**(1).** The past simple tense is used to describe an action, event, activity that started in the past and ended in the past. The verb form is in past tense. Examples are:

1. I smoked .
2. She ate fish.
3. They watched television.
4. He drank tea at breakfast.

Typical time expression used with tense are **yesterday, last night/week/ year/month/ summer, ago..etc.**

## ● (2) The Past Continuous tense

The past continuous tense is used to describe a **continuing** action, event, activity that was happening at some point in the past.

**subject + was / were + v + (- ing)**

1. I was smoking.
2. She was eating fish.
3. They were watching television.
4. He was drinking tea at breakfast.

## ● (3) The Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense is used to describe an **action**, event, activity that had happened **before another action** in the past. This means that there are **two actions**, the **first** in the **past perfect** while the **second** in the **past**. It is formed using:

**subject + had + past participle** of the verb

1. The thief **had escaped** before the police **arrived**. ( two events)
2. The police **had arrived** before **the thief escaped**. (= = )
3. She **entered** the class after the lesson **had started**. (= = )
4. Ali **had typed** the message before he **mailed** it. (= = )

## ● (4) The Past Perfect Continuous Tense

The past perfect continuous is used to describe an **action** started in the **past** and **continued up to another time in the past**. The past perfect continuous is formed using **had + been + v + -ing**.

1. They **had been going** to work.
2. We **had been living** there for two years.
3. They **had been studying** very hard.
4. She **had been painting** the room for three hours.

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## The Past Continuous & The Past Perfect Continuous

- 1- I **was eating** dinner, when the **doorbell rang**.
- 2- They **were talking**, when **Tony arrived**.

● We use the **Past Continuous** ↑ ( **was** or **were + v+ ing**) to show that a **longer action** ( **was eating**) in the past continuous was interrupted by a **shorter action** ( **doorbell rang**) in the Simple Past as in sentence (1) above.

● We use the **Past Perfect Continuous** ↓ ( **had +been + v+ ing**) to show that an **action** went on ( continued) for a period of time (for an hour) before a past tense (**doorbell rang**) as in sentences (2) below.

- 1- I **had been eating** dinner for an hour , when the **doorbell rang**.

2. They **had been talking** for over an hour before **Tony arrived**.

### Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with a verb from the box in the **Simple Past**.

<i>break / swim / have / make / sit / write</i> <i>/ spend / buy / drink / lose / wash</i>
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1. She ..... a cake an hour ago.
2. She ..... a hat last week.
3. The boy ..... a letter yesterday.
4. They ..... in the sea for an hour.
5. They ..... a lot of Coke last night.
6. She ..... her arm last week.
7. He ..... all his money last week.
8. She ..... a bath two minutes ago.
9. He ..... his wallet last night.
10. She ..... on the old chair a minute ago.
11. She ..... the clothes yesterday.

### Exercise 2

**Past or Past Perfect Tense – Simple: Fill in the correct form.**

1. Mary ..... (give) me Tony's address before she left.
2. When the boys arrived, the film ..... (already, start).
3. Before we reached the station, we ..... (lose) our way.
4. All the tickets ..... (be) sold before the concert (begin).
5. They (take) a shower after they ..... (finish) the game.
6. I asked Mr Green how many books he ..... (read).
7. Mum asked me why I ..... (not tidy) up my room.
8. Bob was sorry that he ..... (told) me the story.
9. Alan watched TV after he ..... (have) lunch.
10. The sun ... (shine) yesterday after it ... (be) cold for weeks.

### Exercise 3

**Make the past continuous.**

1. (they / take the exam?)
2. (when / he / work there?)

3. (you / make dinner?)
  4. (they / drink coffee when you arrived?)
  5. (when / we / sleep?)
  6. (they / study last night)
  7. (we / talk when the accident happened)
  8. (he / not / exercise enough)
  9. (I / talk too much?)
  10. (it / not / snow)
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