

ENGLISH

# Unit 4: Past Tense



*English for Beginners with*

**THE INSPIRE ACADEMY**



# Past Tense

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A 'verb tense' tells you when an action occurred.

There are three main verb tenses in English - the **past** tense, the present tense and the future tense.

The Past Tense has four different forms:

1. Past Simple
2. Past Perfect
3. Past Continuous
4. Past Perfect Continuous

# Regular & Irregular Verbs

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All verbs have a base form or infinitive.

e.g.: to look, to play, to be, to see

Regular Verbs:

Regular Verbs are the majority of verbs in English that follow the same & simple rule for verb conjugation:

For regular verbs,

Past Simple/Past Participle = infinitive + 'd'/'ed'

Examples for creating past simple and past participle by adding -ed to the base form:

<b>Base Form</b>	<b>Past Simple</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<b>arrive</b>	arrived	arrived
<b>call</b>	called	called
<b>wait</b>	waited	waited

Examples for verbs ending in a consonant and -y; Change the -y to -i and add -ed:

<b>Base Form</b>	<b>Past Simple</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<b>marry</b>	married	married
<b>study</b>	studied	studied

Examples for verbs ending in -e; Simply add -d:

<b>Base Form</b>	<b>Past Simple</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<b>hate</b>	hated	hated
<b>like</b>	liked	liked

Irregular Verbs:

There are many irregular verbs in English and they are divided into four types/groups.

Verbs which have:

1. Same base form, past simple and past participle.
2. Same past simple and past participle.
3. Same base form and past participle.
4. Different base form, past simple and past participle.

## Examples for irregular verbs in Group 1:

<b>Base Form</b>	<b>Past Simple</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<b>cost</b>	cost	cost
<b>cut</b>	cut	cut
<b>hurt</b>	hurt	hurt
<b>let</b>	let	let
<b>put</b>	put	put

## Examples for irregular verbs in Group 2:

<b>Base Form</b>	<b>Past Simple</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<b>bring</b>	brought	brought
<b>buy</b>	bought	bought
<b>catch</b>	caught	caught
<b>feel</b>	felt	felt
<b>find</b>	found	found
<b>get</b>	got	got
<b>have</b>	had	had
<b>hear</b>	heard	heard
<b>keep</b>	kept	kept
<b>leave</b>	left	left
<b>make</b>	made	made
<b>sell</b>	sold	sold
<b>teach</b>	taught	taught
<b>think</b>	thought	thought

## Examples for irregular verbs in Group 3:

<b>Base Form</b>	<b>Past Simple</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<b>come</b>	came	come
<b>become</b>	became	become
<b>run</b>	ran	run

## Examples for irregular verbs in Group 4:

<b>Base Form</b>	<b>Past Simple</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
<b>be</b>	was/were	been
<b>do</b>	did	done
<b>drink</b>	drank	drunk
<b>eat</b>	ate	eaten
<b>fall</b>	fell	fallen
<b>give</b>	gave	given
<b>go</b>	went	gone
<b>know</b>	knew	known
<b>see</b>	saw	seen
<b>speak</b>	spoke	spoken
<b>swim</b>	swam	swum
<b>take</b>	took	taken
<b>wake</b>	woke	woken
<b>write</b>	wrote	written
<b>begin</b>	began	begun
<b>choose</b>	chose	chosen

# Past Simple



## FORM:

For regular verbs, past simple tense is formed in accordance with the rules mentioned above.

For irregular verbs, past simple tense depends on the verb and must be learnt by heart (refer to the lists above).

## USES:

1. Used to refer to or talk about actions completed in the past.

Example,

- I was born in Paris.
- She went to the supermarket yesterday.

2. Used when telling a story.

# Past Continuous



## FORM:

For all verbs, was/were + verb + -ing.

## USES:

- Used to describe a past action that hasn't been completed yet.

Example,

- I was trying to fix the car this morning, but I'm not done yet.
- Used for a past action that was interrupted by another action.

Example,

- She was reading a book when the phone rang.
- Used to talk about two actions happening at the same time by using the expression while.
  - I was talking to David while he was driving.

# Past Perfect

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## FORM:

For all verbs, had + past participle of the verb.

## USES:

- When describing a series of actions, it is used to describe the action that happened first.

Example,

- I had modified the agreement and then sent it to the manager.

- Used for describing a past action that was finished in a specific time period.

Example,

- I had contacted the consultant a few time in July but not after that.

# Past Perfect Continuous

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## FORM:

For all verbs, had + been + verb + -ing.

## USES:

- Used to describe an action which started in the past and continued unto another point in the past.

Example,

- Anna had been living in New York for four years when she lost her job.

- Used for talking about the cause of something in the past.

Example,

- Henry was late to work because he had been studying.

## EXERCISE

Identify the correct form of past tense for the underlined forms in the sentences given below:

1) I heard a lot of noise when I talked on the phone with Sandra last night.

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2) She had been cooking when I called her.

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3) I had come home and then I took my sunglasses, but I cannot find them anymore.

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4) I had cut my finger while I chopped carrots yesterday.

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5) She had been a professional chef for years before quitting her job.

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6) I was working at the bank the year my niece was born.

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7) I was watering the plants when I got a call from my mother.

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8) He wasn't done working on his project, but he had to leave work early anyway so as to pick his daughter up from school.

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9) The radio station was broadcasting music before it was interrupted by an important announcement.

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10) I had been eating dinner when I thought about what I would do this weekend.

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11.) I swam yesterday when I missed your call.

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12.) I was going there many times when I was a child.

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# EXERCISE

Fill in the blank with either past simple or past continuous.

1) I (to drive) \_\_\_\_\_ to the market yesterday when I got a flat tire.

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2) She (to like) \_\_\_\_\_ the color red, but now she likes blue.

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3) Mark (to walk) \_\_\_\_\_ to the theatre when you called him.

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4.) Jill (to love) \_\_\_\_\_ riding her bike.

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5.) I (to have) \_\_\_\_\_ a great time at the party last Friday before I had to leave.

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6.) You (to need) \_\_\_\_\_ to get a haircut last time I saw you.

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7.) Mary (to work) \_\_\_\_\_ all day yesterday.

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