



مجموعة جامعة
الجميع الذكية
للتعليم القابضة

MIDOCEAN
UNIVERSITY
BY EVERYONE'S SMART UNIVERSITY

Past Tenses in Use

Lecture 7

Prepared by
Ahmed Soliman

www.midocean.ae

Past Tenses in Use

Past simple	E.g. I <i>played</i>
Past continuous	E.g. I <i>was playing</i>
Past perfect	E.g. I <i>had played</i>
Past perfect continuous	E.g. I <i>had been playing</i>



1. Past Simple

Use

Finished actions in the past.

I *was* born in San Francisco.

Yesterday I went to the supermarket.

Last night we watched the football.

The phone rang five minutes ago.



To tell a story

E.g. I *woke up* on my wedding day, I *jumped* out of bed and immediately *called* my brother. He *didn't pick up* and so I *began* to worry.



Key words

last month, last week, last summer, in 1997, when I was a child,
a long time ago,

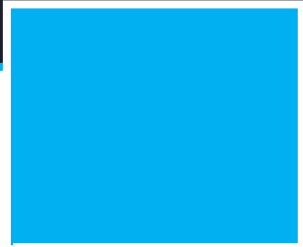
Form

For regular verbs we add **-ed** to the infinitive form of the verb. E.g.

play	played
watch	watched
look	looked

Irregular verbs however, take a different form

be	was
come	came
do	did
eat	ate
find	found
go	went
have	had
know	knew
make	made
put	put



_____ (brush) his teeth

_____ (try) to cook spaghetti in the pot

_____ (put) the spaghetti in the bath

_____ (kill) the bird

_____ (take) the spaghetti out of the cupboard.

2. Past Continuous

Use

A common use of the past continuous is to show that a longer action was interrupted (usually by a shorter action in the past simple). We often use the time expression *when*

I was *swimming* in the sea when I saw a shark.

Henry was *sitting* at home when the phone rang.

She was *playing* golf when it began to rain.



When two continuous actions are happening at the same time we use the time expression *while*.

I was talking to Sarah while she was driving.

We were playing while dad was cooking dinner.



We can also use it to show a continuous action happening at a specific time in the past.

Yesterday morning *I was practising* the piano.

At 6 o'clock *I was eating* dinner.

What *were you doing* at 8pm last night?



It can be used to add some description to a story.

E.g. It was a beautiful day. The sun *was shining* and the birds *were singing*. We *were walking* around our favourite park.



Form

was/were + verb + ing.



Exercise: Choose the correct answer

1. My brother and sister _____ playing tennis at 11am yesterday.

are

was

were

2. _____ you still working at 7pm last night?

Were

Are

Was

3. At 8.30am today I _____ driving to work.

was

am

were



4. We _____ sleeping when the police came.

was

weren't

won't

5. Why _____ he having lunch at 4pm?

was

does

were

6. Was he not _____ his homework?

doing

do

done



3. Past Perfect

Use

We use it when one action happens before another past action.

A. The film *had started* when *we arrived*. (the film started *before* we arrived)

B. The film *started* when *we arrived* (we arrived at the *same* time the film started)

We use time expressions such as *before*, *by the time* and *when*.



Form

had + past participle.

LEARNING
ENGLISH



The Grammar Gameshow



The Past Perfect

4. Past Perfect Continuous

Use

We use it to show that an action which started in the past continued up to another point in the past. For example:

She *had been living* in Italy for three years when she lost her job.

I *had been waiting* for ten minutes before the bus came.

By the time Steve arrived I *had been working* for nearly eight hours!

With the past perfect we use time expressions such as for five hours, for 2 weeks, for a long time, by the time.



Form

had + been + verb + ing.

I *had been waiting* for ten minutes before the bus came.



مجموعة جامعة
الجميع الذكية
للتعليم القابضة

MIDOCEAN
UNIVERSITY
BY EVERYONE'S SMART UNIVERSITY



Thank You

