

# Basic English Grammar



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# Past Tenses

Week 3 – Lecture 3

FORM			

FORM	PRESENT		

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE			
CONTINUOUS			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE			
CONTINUOUS			
PERFECT			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE			
CONTINUOUS			
PERFECT			
PERFECT CONTINUOUS			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	S + Verb 1 + 0		
CONTINUOUS			
PERFECT			
PERFECT CONTINUOUS			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	S + Verb 1 + 0		
CONTINUOUS	S + to be ( <i>is, am, are</i> ) + V-ing + 0		
PERFECT			
PERFECT CONTINUOUS			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	S + Verb 1 + 0		
CONTINUOUS	S + to be ( <i>is, am, are</i> ) + V-ing + 0		
PERFECT	S + have/has + Verb 3 + 0		
PERFECT CONTINUOUS			

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PERFECT	S + have/has + Verb 3 + 0		
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	S + have/has + been + V-ing + 0		

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	S + Verb 1 + 0	S + Verb 2 + 0	
CONTINUOUS	S + to be ( <i>is, am, are</i> ) + V-ing + 0		
PERFECT	S + have/has + Verb 3 + 0		
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	S + have/has + been + V-ing + 0		

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**Correct these following sentences:**

1. **It rains all day yesterday.**
2. **Gary studied when I arrived.**
3. **I buy a new book last semester.**
4. **I wasn't understanding what you said.**
5. **The police stops me on my way home last night.**

## Correct sentences:

1. It *rained* all day yesterday.
2. Gary *was studying* when I arrived.
3. I *bought* a new book last semester.
4. I *didn't understand* what you said.
5. The police *stopped* me on my way home last night.



**SIMPLE  
PAST  
TENSE**

# Simple Past



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an Austrian musician and composer. He lived from 1756 to 1791. He started composing at the age of five and wrote more than 600 pieces of music. He was only 35 years old when he died.

# Simple Past



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **was** an Austrian musician and composer. He **lived** from 1756 to 1791. He **started** composing the age of five and **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. He **was** only 35 years old when he **died**.

**Lived, started, wrote, was, died**  
*are all simple past verbs.*

# Simple Past

Very often the simple past ends in -ed (*regular* verbs):

- ❖ I work in a travel agency now. I **worked** in a department store before.
- ❖ We **invited** them to our party, but they decided not to come.
- ❖ Laura **passed** her exam because she studied very hard.

But many verbs are *irregular*. This means the simple past does not end in -ed.

- ❖ Mozart **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.
- ❖ We **saw** Rose at the mall a few days ago.
- ❖ I **went** to the movies three times last week.

In questions and negatives we use  
did/didn't + base form (enjoy/see/go, etc.)

I	enjoyed
she	saw
they	went

I	<b>didn't</b>	enjoy
she		see
they		go

<b>did</b>	you	enjoy?
	she	see?
	they	go?

- ❖ A : **Did** you **go** out last night?  
B : Yes, I **went** to the movies, but I **didn't enjoy** the film much.
- ❖ They **didn't invite** her to the party, so she **didn't go**.
- ❖ “What **did** you **do** on the weekend?”  
“I **didn't do** anything.”



**PAST  
CONTINUOUS  
TENSE**

# Past Continuous Tense

Yesterday Karen and Jim played tennis.  
They began at 10:00 and finished at 11:30.  
So, at 10:30 they **were playing** tennis.

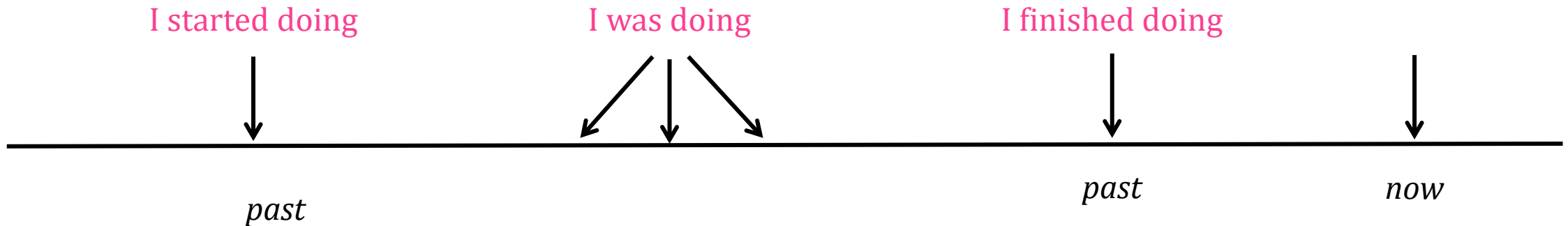
They **were playing** = they were in the middle of playing.  
They had not finished playing.

Was/were + verb -ing is the past continuous:

<b>I/he/she/it</b>	<b>was</b>	<b>playing</b>
<b>we/you/they</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>doing, etc.</b>

# Past Continuous Tense

I was doing something = I was in the middle of doing something at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this time, but had not finished.



- This time last year, I **was living** in Brazil.
- What **were** you **doing** at 10:00 last night?
- I waved to Helen, but she **wasn't looking**.

# Past Continuous vs Past Simple

## Past Continuous (in the middle of an action)

- I **was walking** home when I met Martin.
- Mawar **was watching** TV when we arrived.

## Past Simple (complete action)

- I **walked** home after the party last night.
- Lita **watched** TV a lot when she was sick last week.

We often use the simple past and past continuous together to say that something happened in the middle of something else:

- ✓ Mike **burned** his hand while he **was cooking** dinner.
- ✓ It **was raining** when I **got** up.
- ✓ I **saw** you in the park yesterday. You **were sitting** on the grass and **reading** a book.
- ✓ I **hurt** my back while I **was working** in the garden.

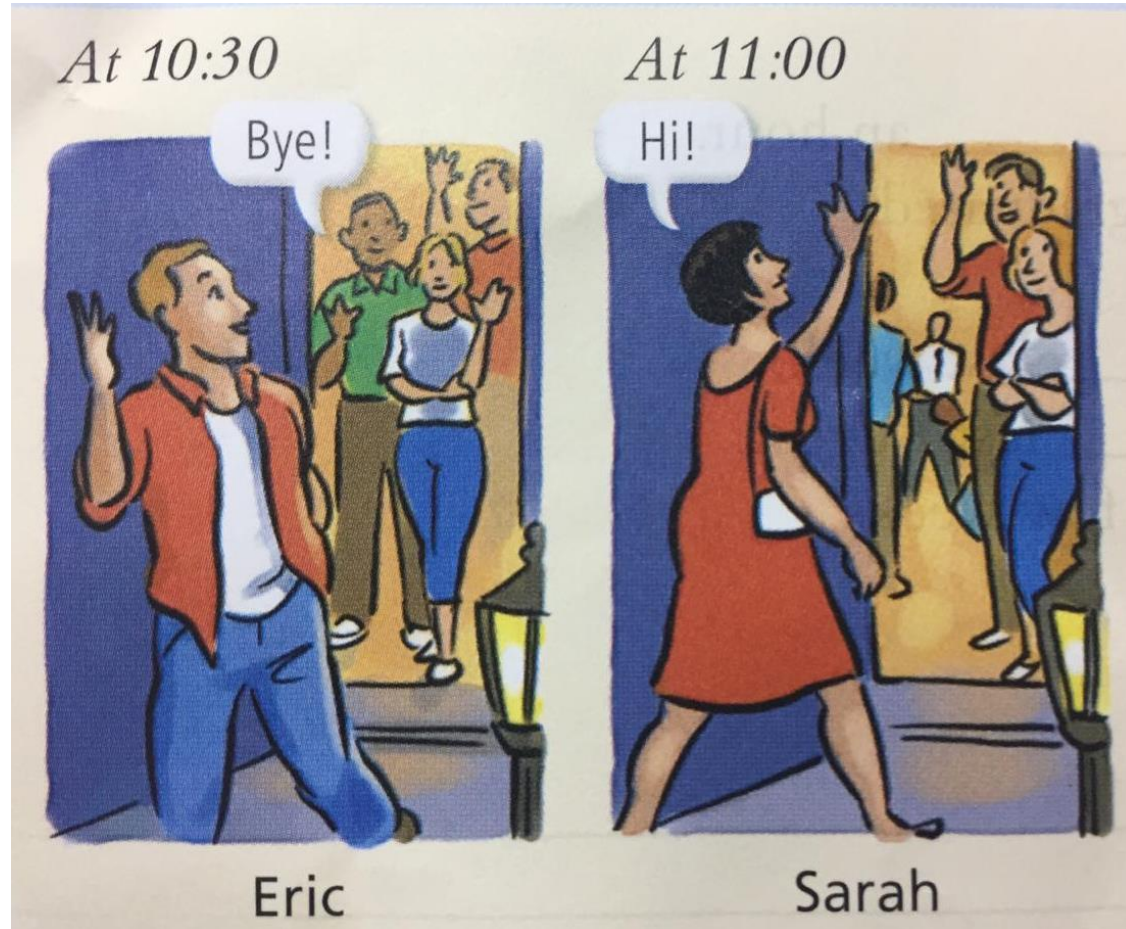
But we use the simple past to say that one thing happened after another:

- ✓ I **was walking** in the park when I **saw** Artha. So I **stopped**, and we **talked** for a while.



**PAST  
PERFECT  
TENSE**

# Past Perfect Tense



When Sarah arrived at the party, Eric **had** already **gone** home.

Sarah went to a party last week. Eric went to the party, too. But they didn't see each other. Eric left the party at 10:30 and Sarah got there at 11:00. So: when Sarah got to the party, Eric wasn't there.

# Past Perfect Tense

<b>I/he/she/it</b>	<b>had</b>	<b>gone</b>
<b>we/you/they</b>		<b>arrived</b>

## Note:

The second (later) action is always in the Past Simple.

She arrived after **we had played cards**.

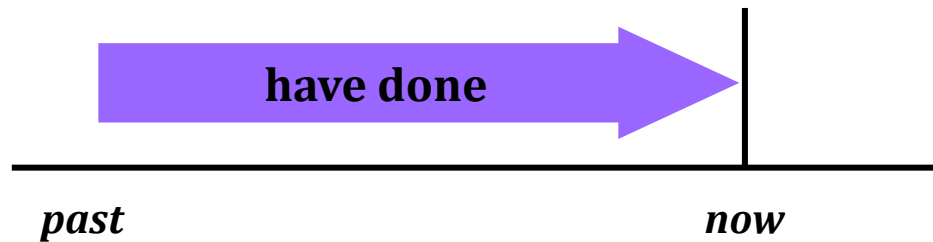
**He had slept a little** before the phone rang.

**They had left for Tokyo** by this time yesterday.

I was sure that **I had seen him before**.

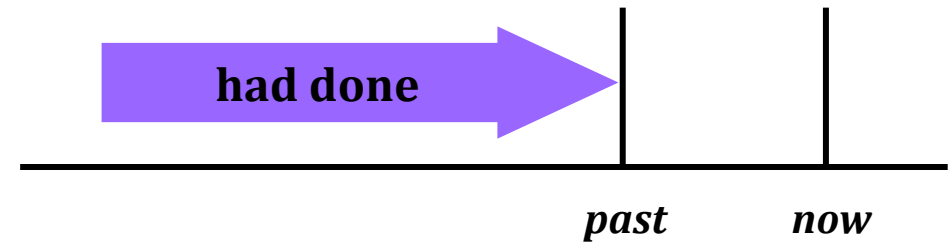
# Compare the present perfect and the past perfect

## *Present Perfect*



- Who is that woman? I **have never seen** her before.
- We aren't hungry. We **have** just **had** lunch.
- The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

## *Past Perfect*



- I didn't know who she was. I **had never seen** her before.
- We weren't hungry. We **had** just **had** lunch.
- The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

## Present Perfect

Action that is complete in the time of speaking:

- ❑ I **have studied** 3 sections **until now.**
- ❑ I **have** already **done** half of the exercises.
- ❑ He **has driven** 500 km so far.

## Past Perfect

Action completed at a specific time in the past:

- ❑ I **had studied** 3 sections **before dinner last night.**
- ❑ I **had** already **done** half of the exercises **before class yesterday.**
- ❑ He **had driven** 500 km yesterday **before the accident happened.**

# Past Perfect Tense

- When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** our house.
- Karen didn't want to go to the movies with us because she **had already seen** the film.
- At first I thought **I had done** the right thing, but I soon realized that **I had made** a big mistake.
- The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **had never flown** before.



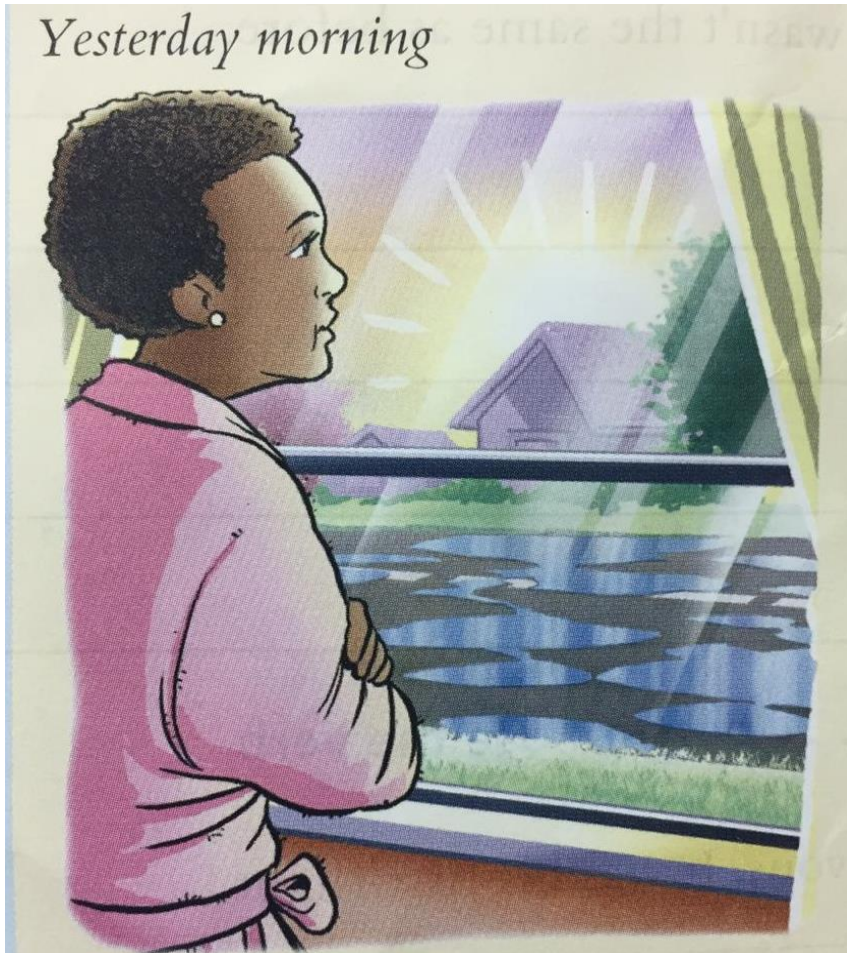
**PAST  
PERFECT  
CONTINUOUS**

I	<b>had</b>	<b>been</b>	waiting	the rest of sentence.
she			flying	
they			playing	

I	<b>hadn't</b>	<b>been</b>	enjoying	the rest of sentence.
she			following	
they			practicing	

<b>Had</b>	you	<b>been</b>	sleeping	the rest of sentence?
	she		working	
	they		living	

# Past Perfect Continuous



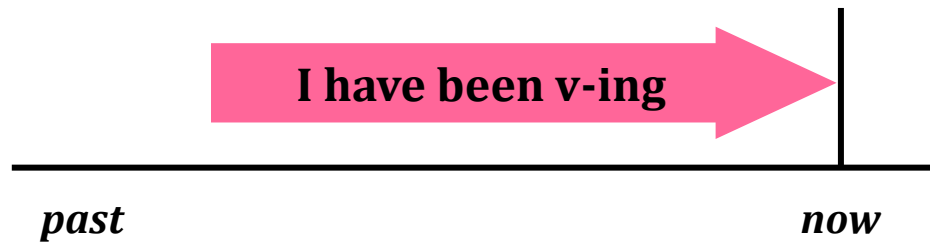
Yesterday morning, I got up and looked out of the window. The ground was wet.

**It had been raining.**

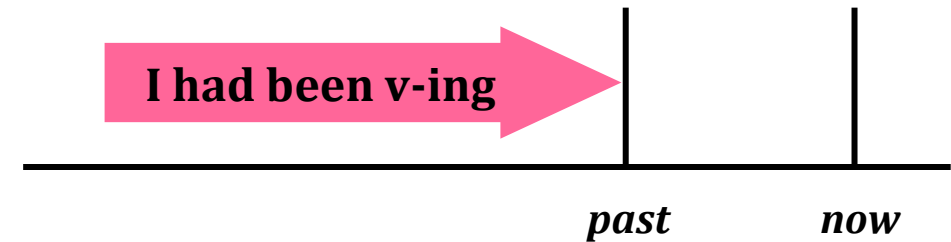
You can say that something had been happening for a period of time before something else happened.

# Compare the present perfect continuous and the past perfect continuous

## *Present Perfect*



## *Past Perfect*



- I hope the bus comes soon. I've **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (before now)
- James is out of breath. He **has been running**.

- The bus finally came. I **had been waiting** for 20 minutes. (before the bus came)
- James was out of breath. **He had been running**.

# Past Perfect Continuous

We had been playing cards **for two hours** when she arrived.

He had been sleeping **for a long time** when the phone rang.

They had been flying to Tokyo **for a few hours** by this time  
yesterday.

# Past Perfect Continuous

- When the boys came into the house, their clothes were dirty, their hair was messy, and one of them had a black eye. They **had been fighting**.
- I was very tired when I got home. I **had been working** hard all day.
- When I went to Tokyo a few years ago, I stayed with a friend of mine. She **had been living** there only a short time but knew the city very well.

Thank you!

## REFERENCES

Murphy, Raymond & Smalzer, William. *Grammar in use, Intermediate*. Cambridge U. Press, 2019.

Leu, Zenda. *My Grammar Guide*. Raffles Consultancy.

# PICTURE SOURCES ON EACH SLIDE

- Slide 23, 24: <https://alchetron.com/Wolfgang-Amadeus-Mozart>
- Slide 33: Grammar in use - Intermediate Book, page 28.
- Slide 39: Grammar in use - Intermediate Book, page 30.