



# 1<sup>st</sup> semester

# Topic 8:

## Grammar: Past tenses





# Past Simple



## Affirmative

I/you waited  
he/she/it waited  
we/you/they waited

## Negative

I/you did not wait  
he/she/it did not wait  
we/you/they did not wait

## Question

Did I/you wait?  
Did he/she/it wait?  
Did we/you/they wait?



# Past Simple

**We use the Present Simple to talk about:**

- **Actions that started and finished in the past**

*He sent the e-mail yesterday.*

*Did they do the job last night?*

- **Actions that happened one after the other in the past**

*She opened the door, picked up the telephone and made a call.*

- **Actions that were repeated or were habits in the past**

*I caught the early train every morning.*



# Time Expressions with the Past Simple

how long ago...?

a month ago

a year ago

every summer

in 1955

in January

last summer

last year

the day before yesterday

then

yesterday



# Past Continuous



## Affirmative

I was waiting

you were waiting

he/she/it was waiting

we/you/they were waiting

## Negative

I was not waiting

you were not waiting

he/she/it was not waiting

we/you/they were not waiting

## Question

Was I waiting?

Were you waiting?

Was he/she/it waiting?

Were we/you/they waiting?



# Past Continuous

**We use the Past Continuous to talk about:**

- **Actions that were in progress at a specific time in the past**

*I was having lunch at one o'clock.*

*Was he listening to the radio when you left?*

- **Two or more actions that were in progress at the same time in the past**

*My brother was putting the tools away and I was cleaning the garage.*

- **The background events in a story**

*The wind was blowing and the clouds were moving across the blue sky.*

- **An action in progress in the past that was interrupted by another**

*I was reading when the telephone rang.*



# Time Expressions with the Past Continuous

at ten o'clock  
yesterday

at that time  
yesterday

all evening

while



# Past Perfect Simple



## Affirmative

I/you had waited  
he/she/it had waited  
we/you/they had waited



## Negative

I/you had not waited  
he/she/it had not waited  
we/you/they had not waited



## Question

Had I/you waited?  
Had he/she/it waited?  
Had we/you/they waited?



# Past Perfect Simple



We use the Past Perfect Simple to talk about:

- Something that happened before another action in the past

*We had seen a programme about India, so we went to the places they recommended*

- Something that happened before a specific time in the past

*Walter has finished the project by lunchtime.*

- Something that happened in the past and had an effect on a following action or state

*I have known him for years.*

- Something that has just happened

*He has just left.*

*They've just told me the story.*



# Time Expressions with the Past Perfect Simple

already

never

before

never

just

when

as soon as

by the time

till/until

# Past Perfect Continuous



## Affirmative

I/you had been  
waiting  
he/she/it had been  
waiting  
we/you/they had been  
waiting

## Negative

I/you had not been  
waiting  
he/she/it had not been  
waiting  
we/you/they had not been  
waiting

## Question

Had I/you been  
waiting?  
Had he/she/it been  
waiting?  
Have we/you/they been  
waiting?



# Past Perfect Continuous

**We use the Past Perfect Continuous to talk about:**

- **One action in the past lasted for some time before another past action**

*I had been teaching at that school for some time before I met you.*

- **One action that lasted for some time in the past had an effect on a following action or state**

*He knew the city very well because he had been working as a taxi driver for ages.*



# Time expressions with the Past Perfect Continuous

**for**

**how long**

**before**

**until**

**since**