



1st 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