

PAST

TENSE

# Past Simple

```
graph TD; A[Past Simple] --> B[Affirmative]; A --> C[Negative]; A --> D[Question];
```

## 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

```
graph TD; A[Past Continuous] --> B[Affirmative]; A --> C[Negative]; A --> D[Question];
```

## 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.*

- ⦿ 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

```
graph TD; A[Past Perfect Simple] --> B[Affirmative]; A --> C[Negative]; A --> D[Question];
```

## 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 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

```
graph TD; A[Past Perfect Continuous] --> B[Affirmative]; A --> C[Negative]; A --> D[Question];
```

## 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

how long

for

since

before

until