

Стегній Аліна 1 курс , 2 група  
Факультету іноземних мов

# Past Simple, Past Continuous and Past Perfect

Вивчення минулого часу

Минулий час потрібен для вільного спілкування англійською мовою

Для чого потрібно  
вивчати минулий час ?

1. Як використовується час Past Simple ?
2. Як використовується час Past continuous ?
3. Як використовується час Past Perfect ?
4. У чому різниця між Past Simple та past Continuous ?
5. Особливості використання Past Perfect ?

# The Past Simple

We use the past tense to talk about:

1. Something that happened **once in the past**:

I **met** my wife in 1983.

We **went** to Spain for our holidays.

They **got** home very late last night.

2. Something that happened **again and again in the past**:

When I was a boy I **walked** a mile to school every day.

We **swam** a lot while we were on holiday.

They always **enjoyed** visiting their friends.

3. Something that was **true for some time** in the past:

I **lived** abroad for ten years.

He **enjoyed** being a student.

She **played** a lot of tennis when she was younger.

4. We often use phrases with *ago* with the past tense:

I met my wife a long time **ago**.

## Questions and negatives

We use *did* to make questions with the past tense:

When **did you meet** your wife?

Where **did you go** for your holidays?

**Did she play** tennis when she was younger?

**Did you live** abroad?

But look at these questions:

Who discovered penicillin?

Who wrote Don Quixote?

For more on these questions see **question forms**

We use **didn't (did not)** to make **negatives** with the past tense:

They **didn't go** to Spain this year.

We **didn't get** home until very late last night.

I **didn't see** you yesterday.

# The Past Continuous

The past continuous is formed from the past tense of *be* with the *-ing* form of the verb:

We use the past continuous to talk about the **past**:  
for something which continued **before** and **after** another **action**:

The children **were doing their homework** when I got home.

Compare:

I got home. The children did their homework.

The children did their homework when I got home.

As I was watching television the telephone rang.

This use of the past continuous is very common at the beginning of a story:

The other day **I was waiting** for a bus when ...

Last week **as I was driving** to work ...

for something that happened **before** and **after** a **particular time**:

It was eight o'clock. I was writing a letter.

To show that something **continued for some time:**

My head **was aching**.

Everyone **was shouting**.

For something that was happening **again and again:**

I **was practising** every day, three times a day.

They **were meeting** secretly after school.

They **were always quarrelling**.

With verbs which show **change or growth:**

The children **were growing up** quickly.

Her English **was improving**.



# The Past Perfect

When we talk about something that happened in the past we sometimes want to refer back to something that happened before that time. We can use the **past perfect** tense (**had + past participle**) to do this.

John left the house at 7:30 yesterday morning.

*Mary rang John's doorbell at 8:15 yesterday but John had already left the house.*

We use the **past perfect** (*had left*) because the action happened *before* another action in the past (*Mary rang the doorbell.*)

Look at some more examples of the **past perfect**.

*When Mrs Brown opened the washing machine she realised she had washed the cat.*

*I got a letter from Jim last week. We'd been at school together but we'd lost touch with each other.*

The **past perfect** is used because they were at school *before* he received the letter. It refers to an earlier past.

*James had cooked breakfast when we got up.*





1. The most common use of the **past continuous** tense is to talk about something that was happening around a particular time in the past.

*What were you doing at 8 o'clock last night?  
I was watching television.*

I started watching television before 8 o'clock and I continued watching it after 8 o'clock.

*In 1994 he was working in a small town in Poland.*

*At 6 o'clock on Saturday morning we were travelling to the airport.*

2. We often use the **past continuous** and the **past simple** tense together. When this happens, the **past continuous** describes a longer, 'background' action or situation and the **past simple** describes the action or events.

*When I woke up this morning it was raining and my father was singing in the kitchen.*

*I was walking home, whistling happily, when I saw two masked men run out of the bank.*

Time Past Perfect similar Past Simple, indicates an action in the past. However, unlike him, the action in the Past Perfect has been completed by the time of the beginning of another action in the past. Compare examples:

Jane bought an ice-cream and then ate it. (Past Simple)

Jane ate an ice-cream that she had bought. (Past Perfect)

Michael *cleaned* the room when mother came home. (Past Simple)

Він почав уборку тільки коли прийшла мама

Michael *had cleaned* the room when mother came home. (Past Perfect)

Тут він вже зробив прибирання до приходу мами.

In complex sentences, where we are talking about conditions and results, time Past Perfect is used in the part where the condition is placed.

For Example:

If he *had repaired* his car they would have gone to vacations.

Jane would have returned to Liverpool if she *hadn't got* that job in London.

Висновок : Завдяки цій презентація я змогла детально ознайомитися з минулим часом і в майбутньому зможу легко вживати його .



1. <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/grammar-reference/past-continuous-and-past-simple>
2. <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar/verbs/past-tense/past-continuous>
3. Cambridge University Press – Advanced Grammar in Use