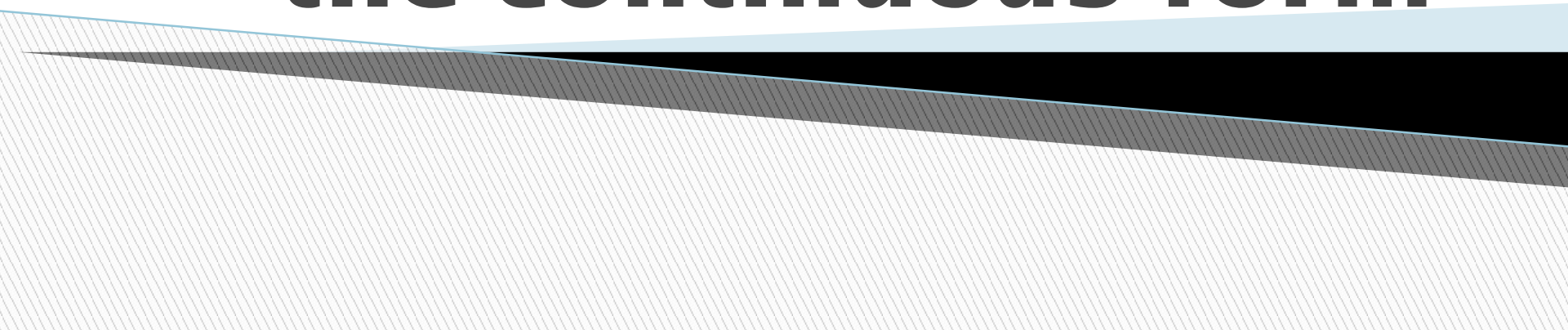


**The Sequence of  
tenses  
and Verbs not used in  
the continuous form**



# Verbs not used in the continuous form

It naturally follows from the definition of the Continuous form ("it denotes an action in a state of process at the present moment or at a definite moment in the past or future") that verbs which do not express a process are not used in the continuous form.

The following groups of verbs do not express a process:

(a) verbs denoting sense perception (*to see, to hear*);

Note: The verb "to feel" is an exception. It is often used in the Continuous form.

I am feeling better to-day, or  
I feel better to-day.

(b) verbs denoting mental activity (*to know, to believe*);

(c) verbs denoting wish (*to want, to wish*);

(d) verbs denoting feeling (*to love, to hate, to like*);

(e) verbs denoting abstract relations (*to have, to consist, to depend, to belong*).

In such expressions as *to see the sights of, to see somebody home, to see somebody off* the verb *to see* does not mean 'видеть', so it can be used in the Continuous form.

They were seeing *the sights of* London while their cousin waited for them at the hotel. (*Wells*)

It is naturally possible to use the Continuous form of the verb *to have* in the expressions of the type *to have dinner (lunch, supper)*, because it does not denote possession.

They are having *lunch*.

The verb *to think* cannot be used in the Continuous form if it denotes an opinion; it can if it denotes a process of thought.

I think you are right.

I am thinking of what you have just said.

The verb *to admire* cannot be used in the Continuous form if it means 'восхищаться'; it can if it means 'любоваться'.

"I hope you dote on Harry the Eighth!" "I admire him very much," said Carker. (*Dickens*)

What are you doing here, my poetic little friend? Admiring the moon, eh? (*Collins*)

# 1. General Rules

**THE RULE STATES:** if the verb in the principal clause is in one of the past tenses, a past tense (or future-in-the-past) must be used in the subordinate clause. The action expressed in the subordinate clause can be simultaneous with the action expressed in the principal clause, prior or posterior to that of the principal clause. Study how the Rule of the Sequence of Tenses is observed in such clauses.

	SIMULTANEOUS ACTION	PRIOR ACTION	FUTURE ACTION
I <b>knew</b> He <b>said</b> (that)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- he <b>lived</b> in Kiev он живёт в Киеве</li> <li>- they <b>were waiting</b> for us они ждут нас</li> <li>- he <b>had been living</b> in Kiev since 1946 он живёт в Киеве с 1946 года</li> <li>- he <b>had known</b> her for two years он знает её 2 года</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- he <b>had already left</b> Moscow он уже уехал из Москвы</li> <li>- it <b>had been raining</b> as it was wet outside шёл дождь, так как на улице мокро</li> <li>- she <b>had been ill</b> for two weeks она болела две недели</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- they <b>would arrive</b> on Sunday они приедут в воскресенье</li> <li>- they <b>would be working</b> at 6 в 6 они будут работать</li> <li>- he <b>would have translated</b> the article by Monday он уже переведёт эту статью к понедельнику</li> </ul>

So a useful **GENERAL RULE** is: we move the reported clauses "**one tense back**":  
*present becomes past, past becomes past perfect, will becomes would.*

Study how the tenses are changed according to the rule of the Sequence of Tenses.

Present Simple

*I **do**...*



Past Simple

*I **did**...*

Present Continuous

*He **is doing**...*



Past Continuous

*He **was doing**...*

Present Perfect

*I **have done**...*



Past Perfect

*I **had done**...*

Past Indefinite

*I **did**...*



Past Perfect (or stays the same)

*I **did / had done**...*

Past Continuous

*I **was doing**...*



Past Perfect Continuous

*I **had been doing**...*

Past Perfect

*I **had done**...*



does not change

<b>will</b> (future)	⇒	<b>would</b>
<b>can</b>	⇒	<b>could</b>
<b>may</b>	⇒	<b>might</b>
<b>must</b>	⇒	<b>must or had to</b>
<b>Could / could have done</b>		⇒ do not change
<b>Might / might have done</b>		
<b>Should / should have done</b>		
<b>Needn't / needn't have done</b>		

- ❑ "I **woke up** feeling ill and so I **stayed** in bed."
  - Tom said (that) he **woke up** feeling ill and so he **stayed** in bed.
  - Tom said he **had woken up** feeling ill then and so he **had stayed** in bed.
- ❑ "You **must** stay in bed for three days." – The doctor said that I **must stay** in bed for three days. (order/advice)
- ❑ "I **must** leave you now. Here goes the bell." – She said she **had to** leave us right away. There was the bell. (circumstances)
- ❑ "You **should** go to the dentist." – Mother said I **should** go to the dentist.
- ❑ "I **couldn't have said** it." – She insisted she **couldn't have said** it.

When reporting something which was said in another place or a long time ago, other parts of the sentence may have to be changed, apart from the tense.

## Time and Place Changes

<i>here</i>	⇒	<i>there</i>
<i>this</i>	⇒	<i>that</i>
<i>these</i>	⇒	<i>those</i>
<i>now</i>	⇒	<i>then / at that moment / right away</i>
<i>today</i>	⇒	<i>that day</i>
<i>yesterday</i>	⇒	<i>the day before / the previous day</i>
<i>tomorrow</i>	⇒	<i>the next / following day</i>
<i>a year ago</i>	⇒	<i>a year before</i>
<i>last night</i>	⇒	<i>the previous night</i>
<i>tonight</i>	⇒	<i>that night</i>

- ❑ “I’ll do it **tomorrow**.” – She told me (that) she would do it **the next day**.
- ❑ “Do I have to do it **now**?” – I wondered if I had to do it **right away**.
- ❑ “Look at **this** document.” – She wanted me to look at **the** document.

**NB!** Adverb changes depend on the context. It is not always necessary to make these changes, especially in spoken Indirect Speech.

- ❑ “I’ll **see** you **tonight**”, he said. – He said he **would see** me **tonight**.

## NOTES:

1. The main sphere where the Sequence of Tenses is applied is the object clause:
  - Harris **said** he **knew** what kind of place **I meant**.
2. If there are several subordinate clauses in a sentence, the rule is observed in all of them.
  - I **knew** that he **had told** her that he **received** the letters every week.  
– Я *знал*, что он *сказал* ей, что *получает* эти письма каждую неделю.
3. The Rule of the Sequence of Tenses is not observed:
  - a) if the object clause expresses a general truth or something is represented as habitual, customary or characteristic.
    - The teacher **told** the children that water **boils** at 100°C.
    - Galileo **proved** that the Earth **moves** round the Sun.
    - The speaker **said** that the peoples **want** peace.
    - He **told** them that he usually **goes** home by bus.
    - He **asked** what time the train usually **starts**.
    - We **knew** that he **plays** tennis well.
  - b) if the original speaker was talking about a present or future situation that is still present or future (soon after it was said).
    - I **told** you it **is raining**. (In some hours) I **told** you it **was raining**.



4. In when/if-clauses we use *the Past Simple/Past Continuous/Past Perfect* depending on the situation.
- I **thought** that we **would discuss** the problem when the manager **returned** from Moscow.
  - He **said** he **would be reading** while she **was writing** the letter.
  - He **said** that he **would go** home after he **had translated** the article.
5. In attributive clauses, adverbial clauses of cause and comparison we also use *Present or Future*.
- My brother **told** me about the book you **are writing**.
  - He **was not able** to translate the article because he **does not know** English well enough.
  - He **refused** to go to the theatre because he **will have** an exam in a few days.
  - It **was** not so cold yesterday as it **is** now.
  - He **was** once stronger than he **is** now.

6. When we say how long something has been happening, the sentence can have a double meaning. It depends on the context or situation.

I **knew** that she **had been ill for two months**.

1. Я знал, что она *болеет уже два месяца*.

2. Я знал, что она *болела два месяца*.

**BUT:**  I **knew** that she **had been ill**. – Я *знал*, что она *болела*.

He **said** that it **had been raining**. – Он *сказал*, что *шел дождь*.

7. The Past Simple can stay the same if we use:

*in 1945*

*2 years ago*

*yesterday*

*last week*

*when he came*



He **said** that he **left** Moscow *5 years ago*.

He **knew** that Peter **was** at home *yesterday*.

She **said** she **was working** *when I rang her up*.

**BUT:**  He said that he **had left** Moscow **the day before**.

**two years before**.

**the previous night**.

8. The Past Simple after *since* and *when* usually remains unchanged.

8. The Past Simple after *since* and *when* generally remains unchanged.

□ She **said**, "I **have been writing** since I **came**."

– She **said** she **had been writing** since she **came**.

□ "When I **came**, Jane **was playing** the piano."

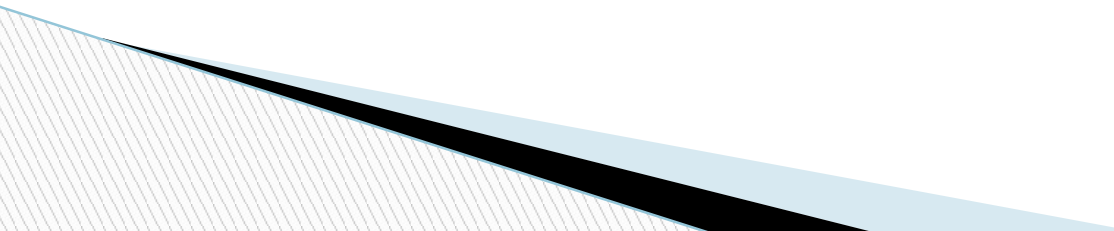
Kitty **said** that when she **came** Jane **was playing** the piano.

## 1 вариант

- 1. Становиться
- 2. Строить
- 3. Жечь
- 4. Принимать меры
- 5. Стоить
- 6. Драться
- 7. Соответствовать
- 8. Запрещать
- 9. Прощать
- 10. Прятать, скрывать
- 11. Покидать
- 12. Давать в займы
- 13. Позволять
- 14. Доказывать
- 15. Искать, разузнавать
- 16. Шить
- 17. Закрывать
- 18. Портить, баловать
- 19. Понимать
- 20. Носить

## 2 вариант

- 1. Носить
- 2. Понимать
- 3. Портить, баловать
- 4. Закрывать
- 5. Шить
- 6. Искать, разузнавать
- 7. Доказывать
- 8. Позволять
- 9. Давать в займы
- 10. Покидать
- 11. Прятать, скрывать
- 12. Прощать
- 13. Запрещать
- 14. Соответствовать
- 15. Драться
- 16. Стоить
- 17. Принимать меры
- 18. Жечь
- 19. Строить
- 20. Становиться

1. Когда мы были в Крыму , мы часами гуляли в горах.
  2. Я не видел его в последнее время. – А я только что встретил его. Он шёл в библиотеку.
  3. Ты будешь свободна сегодня вечером? – Нет, я встречаюсь со своей подругой в 7.
  4. Ты сейчас делаешь эту работу? –Да , но я только что ее начал.
  5. Мы уже встречались.- Когда мы встречались? –Я не помню. По-моему мы встречались 3 года назад.
  6. Он закончил работу до того как мы пришли.
  7. Мы закончим эксперимент к концу следующей недели.
  8. Вчера, когда я выходил из офиса, шел дождь.
  9. Завтра в это же время мы будем плыть на пароходе.
  10. Моя сестра еще не спала, когда я встал.
- 

1. **Become-became-become**
2. **Build-built-built**
3. **Burn-burnt-burnt**
4. **Deal-dealt-dealt**
5. **Cost-cost-cost**
6. **Fight-fought-fought**
7. **Fit-fit-fit**
8. **Forbid-borbade-forbidden**
9. **Forgive-forgave-forgiven**
10. **Hide-hid-hidden(hid)**
11. **Leave-left-left**
12. **Lend-lent-lent**
13. **Let-let-let**
14. **Prove-proved-proved**
15. **Seek-sought-sought**
16. **Sew-sewed-sewn**
17. **Shut-shut-shut**
18. **Spoil-spoilt-spoilt**
19. **Understand-understood-understood**
20. **Wear-wore-worn**