

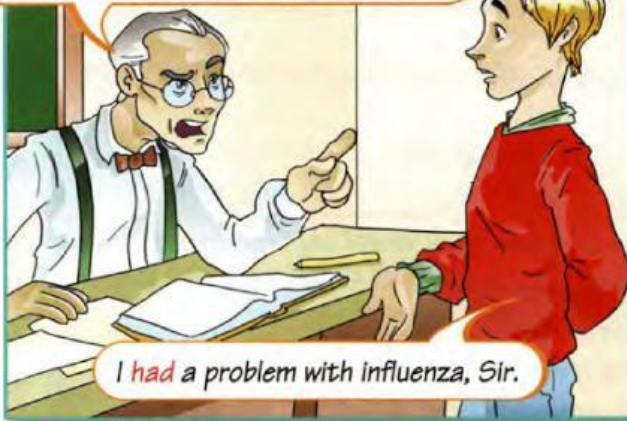
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Tense Forms



Listen and repeat. Then act out.

Johnny, where **were** you yesterday? I **was** looking for you but you **weren't** at school.



I **had** a problem with influenza, Sir.

Oh! I **didn't** know you **had** been ill.



Oh, no! I **had been** trying to spell it for so long that I **was** too tired to come to school.

Past Simple

is used for:

- past actions that took place immediately one after the other.
*He **got in** the car, **started** the engine and **drove** off.*
- past habits or states which are now finished. In such cases, we can also use the expression *used to*.
*When he was young, he **rode/used to ride** his bike to school.*
- a complete action or event which happened at a stated time in the past.
*She **passed** her exam **last week**. (When? "Last week" – stated time in the past)*
- complete past actions not connected to the present with a stated or implied time reference
*Elvis Presley **made** lots of records. (Elvis is dead; he won't record any more – period of time now finished – implied time reference)*

Past Continuous

is used for:

- an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past. We do not know when the action started or finished.
*At 1 o'clock this afternoon they **were having** coffee.*
- a past action which was in progress when another action interrupted it.
*I **was playing** football when I broke my ankle. (The action in progress – was playing (Past Continuous) – was interrupted by another action – broke. Past Simple)*
- two or more actions which were happening at the same time in the past (simultaneous actions).
*He **was cooking** while she **was sleeping**.*
- background description to events in a story/description.
*They **were travelling** to Swansea ...*

Past Perfect

is used for:

- an action which happened before another past action or before a stated time in the past.
*She **had** already **cooked** dinner when her husband came home. (She cooked dinner first and then her husband came.)*
- an action which finished in the past and whose result was visible in the past.
*When I saw Steve yesterday he was happy because he **had found** a new job.*
- The Past Perfect is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect.
*There was no pudding left; he **had eaten** it all. (Present perfect: There's no pudding left; he has eaten it all.)*

Past Perfect Continuous

is used:

- for an action of certain duration continuing up to a specific time in the past.
*She **had been trying** to get a visa for months before she gave up.*
- for a past action which lasted for some time in the past and whose result was visible in the past.
*Her fingers ached because she **had been playing** the guitar all day.*
- The Past Perfect Continuous is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect Continuous.
*He stayed in bed that day because he **had been feeling** ill all week. (Present perfect: He's staying in bed today because he's been feeling ill all week.)*

Time expressions used with:

Past Simple	yesterday, last week, etc, (how long) ago, then, just now, when, in 1992, etc.
Past Continuous	while, when, as, the moment that, etc.
Past Perfect	for, since, already, after, just, never, yet, before, by, by the time, etc.
Past Perfect Continuous	for, since

10 Identify the tenses, then match them with the correct description.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 She opened the cupboard, took out a dress and put it on.</p> <p>2 She was upset because she had been waiting to hear from her son for days.</p> <p>3 They were still discussing the plan at midnight.</p> <p>4 They were flying over the Andes when the storm began.</p> <p>5 Tom was reading out the text while Sara was writing it down.</p> <p>6 She had finished most of the work by the time her boss arrived.</p> <p>7 He always went to work by train.</p> <p>8 We had been living in the same house for twelve years before we decided to move.</p> | <p>a past action in progress interrupted by another past action</p> <p>b past action which occurred before another action or before a stated time in the past</p> <p>c two or more simultaneous past actions</p> <p>d action continuing over a period up to a specific time in the past</p> <p>e past actions which happened immediately one after the other</p> <p>f past action of a certain duration which had visible results in the past</p> <p>g past habit or state</p> <p>h action in the middle of happening at a stated past time</p> |
|---|---|

11 Fill in with the *past simple* or the *past continuous*.

Simon 1) was walking (walk) home from work the other day when he 2) (notice) something shining on the other side of the road. A car 3) (come) down the street, so he waited until it had driven past. Then he 4) (cross) over. When he 5) (get) to the other side, he saw that there was a shiny gold coin on the road! He 6) (look) around to make sure no one 7) (watch) him. Then, he 8) (bend) down to pick it up. Imagine his surprise when he 9) (not/can) move it! He 10) (be) just about to give up when he 11) (hear) a strange sound behind him. Someone 12) (laugh) at him, but he couldn't see who it 13) (be). Two little boys 14) (hide) behind a hedge, laughing at anyone who tried to pick up the coin they had stuck to the road with glue!



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Tense Forms

12

Fill in with an appropriate past form.

Titanic HITS Iceberg

In 1912, a passenger steamship called the *Titanic* 1) was sailing... (sail) across the Atlantic Ocean from England to America. A bright moon 2)

..... (shine) and a gentle breeze

3) (blow). The ship 4) (sail)

for four days and was now more than halfway towards its destination – New York City. Some passengers

5) (sleep) in their cabins while others 6)

(relax) on deck, when suddenly they all 7) (hear) a loud bang. Those

sitting on deck 8) (jump up), 9) (run) to

the railing of the ship, and 10) (look) over the side. To their horror, they

saw that they 11) (hit) an iceberg which 12)

(tear) a hole in the side of the ship. Water was pouring into the ship at an alarming rate. There were

not enough lifeboats on the ship and tragically more than 1,500 people lost their lives that night. The

sinking of the *Titanic* remains the most infamous sea disaster in history.



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Which of the past forms in the text (1–12) above are used to express:

1 past action of certain duration continuing up to a specific time in the past

... 4 ...

2 background description of events in the story

.....

3 shorter actions which interrupt longer actions

.....

4 past action which occurred before another past action

.....

5 past actions which happened one immediately after the other

.....

6 past actions which were happening at the same time in the past

.....

14

Underline the correct time expression.

1 I still/yet/just hadn't done my homework when Mum came home.

2 Meg was lying in the sun before/while/as soon as the children were playing in the pool.

3 How long ago/How long/While did you pass your driving test?

4 He continued his journey before/after/yet he had changed the tyre.

5 She had been singing for years since/for/ before she finally became a star.

6 Our team had scored three goals by the time/ until/while we got to the match.

7 The professor didn't start speaking after/ until/yet everyone was quiet.

8 She took off her coat just/as soon as/already she entered the house.