IVY IELTS
Trung tâm Anh ngữ

past tenses

simple past: *worked, stopped, went, had,* etc.

She **was** born in Seoul. 3 10
They **got** married last year.
On the way to Rome we **stopped** in Florence for the night.
The plane **didn't arrive** on time.
What time **did** you **get up** this morning?

- We use the simple past for finished actions in the past (when we say, ask, or know when they happened).
- Remember **Irregular verbs** *p.165.*

past continuous: *was / were* + verb + *-ing*

1 What **were** you **doing** at six o'clock last night? 3 11
2 I **was driving** along the freeway when it started snowing.
3 While I **was doing** the housework the children **were playing** in the yard.
4 It was a cold night and it **was raining**. I **was watching** TV in the living room...

1 We use the past continuous to talk about an action in progress at a specific time in the past.
2 We often use the past continuous to describe a past action in progress that was interrupted by another action (expressed in the simple past).
3 We often use the past continuous with *while* for two actions happening at the same time.
4 We often use the past continuous to describe the beginning of a story or anecdote.

past perfect: *had* + past participle

When they turned on the TV, the game **had** already **finished**. 3 12
As soon as I shut the door, I realized that I'**d left** my keys on the table.
We couldn't get a table in the restaurant because we **hadn't booked** one.

- We use the past perfect when we are talking about the past and we want to talk about an earlier past action. Compare:
  When John arrived, they ***went out****.* (= first John arrived and then they went out)
  When John arrived, they ***had gone out****.* (= they went out before John arrived)

using narrative tenses together

It was a cold night and it **was raining**. I **was watching** TV in the living room. Suddenly I **heard** a knock at the door. I **got up** and **opened** the door. But there was nobody there. The person who **had knocked** on the door **had disappeared**... 3 13

- Use the past continuous (*was raining, was watching*) to set the scene.
- Use the simple past (*heard, got up,* etc.) to say what happened.
- Use the past perfect (*had knocked, had disappeared*) to say what happened before the previous past action.

a. Choose the correct form.

Example:The teacher gave Robbie a zero because he cheated / ***had cheated*** on the exam.

1 They didn't win the game although they were training /had trained every evening.

2 Mike had an accident while he cycled / was cycling *to work.*

3 I cleaned | had cleaned the house when I got home. It looked great.

4 When we arrived, the game started / had started. We got there just in time and saw the whole game!

5 The captain didn't score | hadn't scored any goals when the referee ejected him.

6 My son got injured while he played / was playing basketball last Saturday.

7 Luckily, we stopped/ had stopped skiing when the snowstorm started. We were already back at the hotel.

8 The Lakers weren't losing / hadn't lost any of their games during their trip to the East Coast.

9 The referee suspended the game because it was raining / *rained too hard to play.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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b Complete with the simple past, past continuous, or past perfect.

The marathon runner ***was sweating*** when she ***crossed*** the finish line. (sweat, cross)

1 The accident..... when they..... home. (happen, drive)

2 The crowd..... when the referee .....final whistle. (cheer, blow)

3 I..... her at first because she..... so much. (not recognize, change)

4 The police.....her on the freeway because she.....a seat belt. (stop, not wear)

5 Some of the players..... while the coach.....to them. (not listen, talk)

6 We .....use the ski slope because it.....enough. (not can, not snow)

7 They..... play tennis because they.....court. (not able to, not book)

8 The player..... a yellow card because he.....his shirt. (get, take off)

LIVEWORKSHEETS