

PAST TENSES

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect, and Past Perfect Continuous

Remember:



Tense	Formula	Clue words / Hints
Past Simple	Subject + verb in past	Yesterday, last week, ago. A finished action in the past.
Past Continuous	Subject + was/were + verb-ing	While, at 8 p.m. A past action in progress or interrupted by another action.
Past Perfect	Subject + had + past participle	Before, by the time, already. An action completed before another past action.
Past Perfect Continuous	Subject + had been + verb-ing	For two hours, since morning. An activity that continued for some time before another past event.

1. Yesterday, I _____ (visit) my cousins.

HINT: A finished action + yesterday.

2. While my mother _____ (cook), I was doing my homework.

HINT: Two actions happening at the same time in the past.

3. When we arrived at the cinema, the movie _____ (already/start).

HINT: The movie started before we arrived. Use had + past participle.



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EXERCISES



4. He was tired because he _____ (run) for an hour before he rested.

HINT: An activity continued for a period of time before another past event. Use had been + verb-ing.

5. They _____ (not/go) to school last Monday.

HINT: A negative sentence about a finished past action.

6. At 9 p.m. last night, my brother _____ (play) video games.

HINT: An action in progress at a specific time in the past.

7. By the time the police arrived, the thief _____ (escape).

HINT: The escape happened before the police arrived.

8. She _____ (study) for three hours when her friend called.

HINT: An activity continued for three hours before another action interrupted it.

9. What _____ you _____ (do) when the lights went out?

HINT: Ask about an action in progress when another action happened.

10. _____ they _____ (finish) their homework before they went outside?

HINT: Ask whether one action was completed before another past action. Begin with Had.