

Past Forms

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Listen and repeat. Then act out.

What happened?
How did you
burn your ears?



Well, I **was ironing** when the phone **rang**
and I **answered** the iron by mistake.

But I thought
you **had burnt**
both your ears.



Well, yes! I **had been ironing** for only
two minutes when it **rang** again.

Past Simple

past actions which
happened immediately
one after the other
She **sealed** the letter,
put a stamp on it and **posted**
it.

action or event which
happened at a stated past
time
She **called** an hour **ago**.
(When? An hour ago.)

action which happened at
a definite past time. The
action was completed in
the past.
Shakespeare **wrote** a lot of
plays. (Shakespeare is now
dead; he won't write again.)

past habit or state
He **used to go** / **went** to
school on foot.

Past Continuous

two or more
simultaneous past
actions
While I **was sunbathing**,
Tim **was swimming**.

action in progress at a
stated time in the past
He **was playing** tennis at
4:30 pm yesterday.

past action in progress
interrupted by another
past action. The longer
action is in the Past
Continuous, the shorter
action is in the Past
Simple.
While I **was getting**
dressed the bell **rang**.

background description
to events in a story
She **was flying** to Paris.
The sun **was shining**...

Past Perfect

past action which
occurred before
another past action
or before a specific
time in the past
He **had left** by the
time I got there.
(or by 8:15 pm)

complete past action
which had visible
results in the past
She **was sad** because
she **had failed** the test.

the Past Perfect is
the past equivalent
of the Present
Perfect
(He **can't find** his
watch. He **has lost** it.)
He **couldn't find** his
watch. He **had lost** it.

Past Perfect Continuous

emphasis on the duration
of an action which started
and finished in the past
before another past action
or a stated time in the past
She **had been working** as
a clerk **for 10 years** before
she **resigned**.

past action of certain
duration which had
visible results in the past
They **were wet** because they
had been walking in the rain.

the Past Perfect
Continuous is the past
equivalent of the Present
Perfect Continuous
(She **is going** to the doctor.
Her leg **has been aching** for
two days.)
She **went** to the doctor. Her
leg **had been aching** for
two days.

Time expressions used with:

Past Simple	yesterday, last week, etc. (how long) ago, then, just now, when, in 1967, etc.
Past Continuous	while, when, as, etc.
Past Perfect	for, since, already, after, just, never, yet, before, by, by the time, etc.
Past Perfect Continuous	for, since

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Past Forms

- 1 Write the past simple form of the verbs in the list in the correct column. Then read them out.

like	cry	dance	smile	travel	delay	live	empty
stop	play	fry	rob	try	stay	prefer	destroy
-e + d	double consonant + ed		consonant + y → ied		vowel + y + ed		
liked,	stopped,		cried,		played,		

- 2 Add -(e)d to the verbs, put them in the correct column, then read them out.

land	smile	correct	slip	decorate	offer	dress	water	suggest
look	watch	start	smash	cook	collect	prepare	iron	clean
/ɪd/ after /t/, /d/	/t/ after /k/, /s/, /ʃ/, /p/, /tʃ/		/d/ after other sounds					
landed,	looked,		smiled,					

- 3 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct past form, then match them to their uses.

- ~~past habit~~ • past action of certain duration with visible results in the past • simultaneous past actions
- complete past action with visible results in the past • past action in progress interrupted by another past action
- action continuing over a period up to a specific time in the past



- 1 When she was young, she *danced* (dance) a lot.
..... *past habit*



- 2 John (drive) home when his car (break down).
.....



- 3 Ted (read) a book while Mary (watch) TV at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon.
.....



- 4 He was tired. He (work) on his computer all night.
.....



- 5 She was upset because she (lose) her watch.
.....



- 6 She (wait) for an hour before the bus (come).
.....

4 Match the sentences (1–12) with the correct description (a–l).

- 1 It was raining and the wind was blowing.
- 2 He was exhausted because he had been walking all day.
- 3 There was no milk left because Jack had drunk it all.
- 4 She had finished by 8 o'clock.
- 5 The storm broke out after we had been driving for four hours.
- 6 He got into the car, started the engine and drove away.
- 7 The party had already started by the time I arrived.
- 8 Heath Ledger died in 2008.
- 9 I was cycling to work when I fell off my bike.
- 10 The Beatles made lots of records.
- 11 I was sleeping at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon.
- 12 She had been trying to find a job in Hollywood for years before she moved to Miami.

- a past equivalent of the Present Perfect
- b action that was in progress at a stated past time
- c past actions which happened one after the other
- d action which is not connected with the present and happened at a definite past time not mentioned
- e background description to events in a story
- f emphasis on the duration of an action which started and finished in the past before another past action or a stated time in the past
- g past equivalent of the Present Perfect Continuous
- h past action which occurred before another action
- i past action in progress interrupted by another
- j past action which occurred before a stated time in the past
- k event which happened at a stated past time
- l past action of certain duration which had visible results in the past

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1 e | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 |

5 Alex and his family travelled to Moscow last month. Look at the notes below and say what they did on Friday, using the linking words from the list.

after that next finally later first then



FRIDAY

- 8:30 am - 9:30 am: have breakfast at hotel
- 9:30 am - 12:00 pm: see the Kremlin
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: visit St Basil's Cathedral
- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm: eat lunch at one of the many restaurants along the Arbat
- 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm: shop at GUM shopping centre
- 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm: have dinner at One Red Square restaurant
- 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm: attend a ballet performance at the Bolshoi Theatre

S1: *First, they had breakfast at the hotel.*

Now, in pairs, ask and answer questions about what Alex and his family were doing at the times listed below as in the example:

- 9:00 am • 11:45 am • 12:30 pm • 2:00 pm • 4:30 pm • 7:15 pm • 9:45 pm

A: *What were Alex and his family doing at nine o'clock in the morning?*

B: *They were having breakfast at the hotel.*