



# Past Tense




## Revise the columns






# IRREGULAR VERBS






★ Some verbs do NOT follow the -ed rule. ★  
Learn these important verbs!

 <b>PRESENT</b> (Base Form)	 <b>PAST</b> (Simple Past)	 <b>PAST PARTICIPLE</b> (Used with have/has/had)
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GROUP 1: ALL THREE FORMS ARE DIFFERENT

	<b>go</b>	<b>went</b>	<b>gone</b>	I go to school every day. Yesterday I <b>went</b> to school. I have <b>gone</b> to school.
	<b>drink</b>	<b>drank</b>	<b>drunk</b>	I <b>drink</b> water every day. Yesterday I <b>drank</b> water. I have <b>drunk</b> water.
	<b>fly</b>	<b>flew</b>	<b>flown</b>	They <b>fly</b> to Cape Town. Last month they <b>flew</b> . They have <b>flown</b> many times.

GROUP 2: PAST AND PAST PARTICIPLE ARE THE SAME

	<b>buy</b>	<b>bought</b>	<b>bought</b>	I <b>buy</b> new things. I <b>bought</b> a new bag. I have <b>bought</b> a new bag.
	<b>teach</b>	<b>taught</b>	<b>taught</b>	She <b>teaches</b> English. She <b>taught</b> me yesterday. She has <b>taught</b> me before.
	<b>speak</b>	<b>spoke</b>	<b>spoken</b>	We <b>speak</b> English at school. We <b>spoke</b> yesterday. We have <b>spoken</b> English.


GROUP 3: ALL THREE FORMS ARE THE SAME

	<b>cut</b>	<b>cut</b>	<b>cut</b>	I <b>cut</b> the paper. I <b>cut</b> the paper yesterday. I have <b>cut</b> the paper.
	<b>put</b>	<b>put</b>	<b>put</b>	I <b>put</b> my book on the table. I <b>put</b> it on the table. I have <b>put</b> it on the table.
	<b>read</b>	<b>read</b>	<b>read</b>	I <b>read</b> a book every night. I <b>read</b> it last night. I have <b>read</b> the book.

**WHEN DO WE USE THE PAST PARTICIPLE?**

We use the past participle with helping verbs.

I **have eaten** lunch.  
She **has gone** home.  
They **had spoken**.  
We **have flown** to Jo'burg.

 Helping verbs: have, has, had

**REMEMBER!**

Irregular verbs do NOT add -ed.

✗ go <b>ed</b>	✓ went
✗ buy <b>ed</b>	✓ buy <b>ought</b>
✗ eat <b>ed</b>	✓ at <b>e</b>
✗ drink <b>ed</b>	✓ drink
✗ teach <b>ed</b>	✓ teach <b>ed</b>

★ You just have to learn them!

**PRACTICE CORNER**

Complete the table with the correct forms.

PRESENT	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
1. go		gone
2. drink	drank	
3. buy		bought
4. speak	spoke	
5. teach		taught

★ PRACTICE • LEARN • USE • SUCCEED! 🏆

## Four types

1. Simple past (Past Indefinite)

2. Past continuous (Past Progressive)

3. Past perfect

4. Past perfect continuous

## Simple past (Past Indefinite) – use for:

- Describes actions, events, or states of being that have already happened and are completed.
- Any time before the present moment—whether a minute ago or centuries ago—is expressed using the past tense

**NOTE:** Use the **second** column verb.

**Singular (ONE):**

- I **was** cold. (Statement)
- **Was** I cold? (Question)
- I **was not** cold. (Negative)
- My brother lived **d** in a village. (Statement)

- **Did** my brother **live** in a village? (Question)

My brother **did not live** in a village. (Negative)

### **Plural (2 or more):**

- They **were** cold. (Statement)
- **Were** they cold? (Question)
- They **were** not cold. (Negative)
- My grandparents **lived** in a village. (Statement)
- **Did** my grandparents **live** in a village? (Question)
- My grandparents **did not live** in a village. (Negative)

### **Choose the correct verb:**

- I (walk) to school yesterday.
- She (play) netball last week.
- They (eat) lunch at noon.

### **Answers:**

- I **walked** to school yesterday.
- She **played** netball last week.
- They **ate** lunch at noon.

# Past continuous (Past Progressive)

- Used for an ongoing or continuous action that was happening at a certain point in the past.

**NOTE:** Use the **auxiliary** verb (was/were) + the present participle (-ing form)

## Singular (ONE):

- I **was** watch**ing** a movie. (Statement)
- **Was** I watch**ing** a movie? (Question)
- I **was** not watch**ing** a movie. (Negative)
- At that moment, he **was** read**ing** a book. (Statement)
- **Was** he read**ing** a book at that moment? (Question)
- He **was** not read**ing** a book at that moment. (Negative)

## Plural (2 or more):

- Yesterday at nine o'clock, they **were** read**ing** books. (Statement)
- **Were** they read**ing** books yesterday at nine o'clock? (Question)
- They **were** not read**ing** books yesterday at nine o'clock. (Negative)
- We **were** go**ing** to exercise classes the day before. (Statement)
- **Were** we go**ing** to exercise classes the day before? (Question)
- We **were** not go**ing** to exercise classes the day before. (Negative)

### Complete the sentences:

1. The boys \_\_\_\_\_ (play) soccer at 4 p.m.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) when my friend arrived.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) at midnight.
4. We \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) television.
5. They \_\_\_\_\_ (run) in the race.

### Answers:

1. The boys **were playing** soccer at 4 p.m.
2. I **was studying** when my friend arrived.
3. She **was sleeping** at midnight.
4. We **were watching** television.
5. They **were running** in the race.

# Past perfect

- Used to show that one action was completed before another action took place in the past.
- **NOTE:** It uses the auxiliary verb “**had**” followed by the past participle (**3<sup>rd</sup>** column verb) of the main verb.

## Singular (ONE):

- I **had eaten** an apple before I ate dinner. (Statement)
- **Had** I **eaten** an apple before I ate dinner? (Question)
- I **had** not **eaten** an apple before I ate dinner. (Negative)
- She **had eaten** an apple. (Statement)
- **Had** she **eaten** an apple? (Question)
- She **had** not **eaten** an apple. (Negative)

## Plural (2 or more):

- They **had played** football before it started to rain. (Statement)
- **Had** they **played** football before it started to rain? (Question)
- They **had** not **played** football before it started to rain. (Negative)
- We **had visited** the zoo before we ate lunch. (Statement)
- **Had** we **visited** the zoo before we ate lunch? (Question)
- We **had** not **visited** the zoo before we ate lunch. (Negative)

**Write the sentences in the past perfect tense:**

- She (eat) before the lesson started.
- We (finish) the project before Friday.
- They (go) home before it rained.

**Answers:**

- She **had eaten** before the lesson started.
- We **had finished** the project before Friday.
- They **had gone** home before it rained.

**Activity:**

**SIMPLE PAST TENSE**

Complete the sentences by changing the verbs in brackets to the **Simple Past Tense**.

1. The learners \_\_\_\_\_ (complete) their homework yesterday.
2. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) her grandmother last weekend.
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a movie on Friday night.
4. The boys \_\_\_\_\_ (play) soccer after school.
5. My father \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) to work early this morning.

Change the following sentences into **negative sentences**.

6. The teacher explained the lesson clearly.

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7. They attended the school concert.

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Change the following sentences into **questions**.

8. She cleaned her room yesterday.
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9. The learners finished the test.

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10. You enjoyed the match.

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### **PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE**

Complete the sentences using the **Past Continuous Tense**.

11. The children \_\_\_\_\_ (play) outside when it started to rain.  
12. I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for the test at 7 o'clock last night.  
13. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner while I was doing my homework.  
14. We \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) television when the lights went out.  
15. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (mark) books during break.

Change the following sentences into **negative sentences**.

16. He was reading a newspaper.

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17. They were cleaning the classroom.

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Change the following sentences into **questions**.

18. She was writing a letter.

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19. The boys were playing cricket.

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20. You were listening to music.

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### **PAST PERFECT TENSE**

Complete the sentences using the **Past Perfect Tense**.

21. The learners \_\_\_\_\_ (complete) the project before the deadline.  
22. She \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) before I arrived.

23. We \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) dinner before the guests arrived.  
24. The boys \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) the game before it became dark.  
25. My father \_\_\_\_\_ (repair) the car before he sold it.

Change the following sentences into **negative sentences**.

26. They had completed their homework before supper.

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27. She had visited Cape Town before moving there.

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Change the following sentences into **questions**.

28. He had finished his work before lunch.

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29. The learners had studied for the examination.

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30. We had seen the film before.

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**MEMORANDUM**  
**SIMPLE PAST TENSE**

1. completed
  2. visited
  3. watched
  4. played
  5. drove
  6. The teacher did not explain the lesson clearly.
  7. They did not attend the school concert.
  8. Did she clean her room yesterday?
  9. Did the learners finish the test?
  10. Did you enjoy the match?
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**PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE**

11. were playing
  12. was studying
  13. was cooking
  14. were watching
  15. was marking
  16. He was not reading a newspaper.
  17. They were not cleaning the classroom.
  18. Was she writing a letter?
  19. Were the boys playing cricket?
  20. Were you listening to music?
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**PAST PERFECT TENSE**

21. had completed
22. had left
23. had eaten
24. had finished
25. had repaired
26. They had not completed their homework before supper.
27. She had not visited Cape Town before moving there.
28. Had he finished his work before lunch?
29. Had the learners studied for the examination?
30. Had we seen the film before?