Past-Tense

What is Past Tense?

- Past tense expresses actions or events that have already happened.
- It helps in talking about something that occurred in the past.

Types of Past Tense

There are four types of past tense:

Tense	Example	
Simple Past	I sang.	
Past Continuous	I was singing.	
past Perfect	I had sung.	
Past Perfect Continuous	I had been singing.	

Simple Past Tense

Usage

- To show a completed action in the past.
 - **Ex:** She arrived yesterday.
- To express a single past event
 - **Ex:** He opened the window.
- To denote past habits
 - Ex: I often went to bed at 9:30.
- To express an action that began and ended in the past
 - Ex: She worked in this office from 2009 to 2013.

Formation Rules

• Add –ed / –d / –t to regular verbs.

Ex: work \rightarrow worked, play \rightarrow played

• For irregular verbs, use the specific past form.

Ex: go \rightarrow went, fly \rightarrow flew, write \rightarrow wrote

Past Continuous Tense

Usage

• To describe an action that was happening in the past.

Ex: She was cooking.

• To describe an ongoing past action that was interrupted

Ex: He was playing when the phone rang.

To show two or more actions happening together in the past

Ex: While Riya was reading, Rahul was sleeping.

Formation Rules

Subject	Helping Verb	Verb Form
I / He / She / It	was	was + base + ing
We / You / They	were	were + base + ing
I / He / She / It	was	was + base + ing

Past Perfect Tense

Usage

• To show an action completed before another action in the past.

Ex: The patient had died before the doctor arrived.

To describe a completed action before a certain time in the past.

Ex: She had cooked dinner before 8 p.m.

Formation Rules

• Use had + past participle of the verb.

Ex: had gone, had played, had finished

Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Usage

- To describe an action that started in the past and continued till a specific time
 Ex: She had been living there for 10 years.
- To show an action that was ongoing before another past action
 Ex: I had been reading before he arrived.

Formation Rules

had been + base verb + ing

Ex: had been singing, had been writing

Key Examples from the Chapter

Simple Past:

I met him yesterday.

She bought a new dress.

❖ Past Continuous:

Dev and Ratan were playing badminton.

I was watching TV when he came.

Past Perfect:

The rain had stopped when we left.

My uncle had bought a car.

Past Perfect Continuous:

She had been reading for two hours.

He had been drinking milk when I entered.

Points to Re

Points to Remember

- Simple Past: Completed action in the past.
- Past Continuous: Ongoing action in the past.
- Past Perfect: Action completed before another past action.
- Past Perfect Continuous: Action continuing before a past point.