



# The Past Tense

## Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand the four forms of the past tense (simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous).
- They will practice converting sentences from present to past tense.



## Lead in

Read the sentences and tick (✓) the action taking place in past.



(a) Rajesh Banerjee is a professor. ☐

(b) He was a student of this college 10 years ago. ☐

## Past Tense

The **Past tense** is used to describe actions that occurred in the past or conditions that existed in the past.

The past tense has four forms :-

- Simple Past Tense
- Past Continuous Tense
- Past Perfect Tense
- Past Perfect Continuous Tense

## Simple Past Tense

The 'simple past tense', according to the Cambridge Dictionary, is defined as "the form of a verb used to describe an action that happened before the present time and is no longer happening.

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Negative Interrogative
I played.	I did not play.	Did I play?	Did I not play?
We played.	We did not play.	Did we play?	Did we not play?
You played.	You did not play.	Did you play?	Did you not play?
He/she/it played.	He/she/it did not play.	Did he/she/it play?	Did he/she/it not play?



## Grammar Byte

### ◉ Affirmative Sentences

The affirmative sentence is formed by using the past tense of the root form of the verb.

**Example :** I played.

### ◉ Negative Sentences

The negative sentences are formed by using **did not** and the **root form** of the verb.

**Example :** I did not play.

### ◉ Interrogative Sentences

The interrogative sentences are formed by placing **did** before the **subject**.

**Example :** Did I play?

### ◉ Interrogative Negative Sentences

The interrogative negative sentences are formed by using **did** before the subject and **not** before the verb.

**Example :** Did I not play?

## Uses of the Simple Past Tense

The simple past tense is used:

- to express actions or events that took place at a particular point of time in the past and are over now

**Example :** I met him yesterday.

- to express some past habits

**Example :** We usually swam in the river for hours.



## Grammar Byte

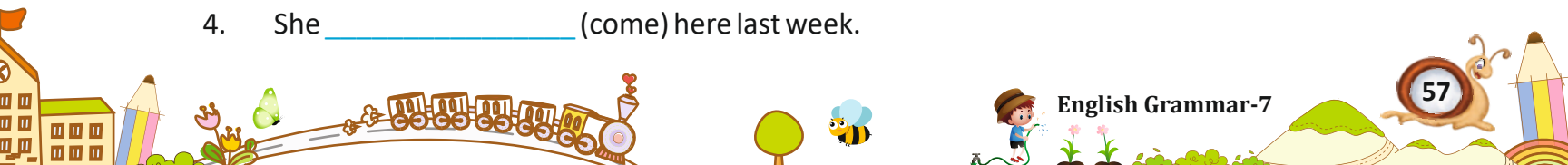
- ◉ When we want to express some past habit, we often use words like **usually, generally, sometimes, never, always**, with the simple past tense.

### A. Fill in the blanks with the simple past tense form of the verb given in the brackets.

1. Honourable Home Minister \_\_\_\_\_ (not attend) the meeting yesterday.
2. Supriya \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Delhi for 10 years.
3. Kamran \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) his friend yesterday.
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ (come) here last week.



Skills/Level  
WRITING & READING/B2





## Past Continuous Tense

The past continuous tense is a verb tense used to describe an action that started in the past and continued over a period of time.

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Negative Interrogative
I was eating.	I was not eating.	Was I eating?	Was I not eating?
We were eating.	We were not eating.	Were we eating?	Were we not eating?
You were eating.	You were not eating.	Were you eating?	Were you not eating?
He/she/it was eating.	He/she/it was not eating.	Was he/she/it eating?	Was he/she/it not eating?



### Grammar Byte

#### ◉ Affirmative Sentences

The affirmative sentence is formed with **was/were + ing** form of the root form of verb.

**Example :** Madhu **was singing**.

#### ◉ Negative Sentences

The negative sentences are formed by using **not** between **was/were** and the **present participle**.

**Example :** Madhu **was not singing**.

#### ◉ Interrogative Sentences

The interrogative sentences are formed by placing **was/were** before the **subject**.

**Example :** **Was** Madhu **singing**?

#### ◉ Negative Interrogative Sentences

The negative interrogative sentences are formed by putting **was/were** before the **subject** and **not** before the **present participle**.

**Example :** **Was** Madhu **not singing**?

## Uses of Past Continuous Tense

The past continuous tense is used:

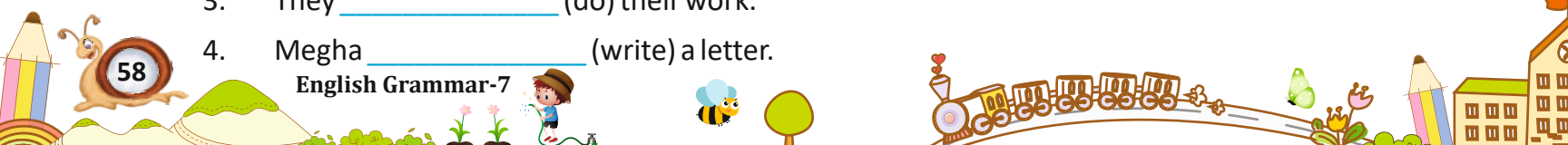
- to describe an action or event that was in progress in the past  
**Example :** Priya **was singing**.
- to express an action continuing at some point of time when another event took place  
**Example :** I **was doing** my homework when father called me.
- to express two or more actions going on at the same time  
**Example :** While I **was studying**, my sister **was watching** T.V.

### B. Fill in the blanks with the past continuous tense form of verbs given in the bracket.

1. Devi \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) a song.
2. Father \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) some vegetables.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ (do) their work.
4. Megha \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a letter.



Skills/Level  
WRITING/B1





## Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense is a verb form used to refer to a past action that occurred before another past action. The past perfect is formed using “had” along with the past participle of the main verb (e.g., “I had run”).

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Negative Interrogative
I had eaten.	I had not eaten.	Had I eaten?	Had I not eaten?
We had eaten.	We had not eaten.	Had we eaten?	Had we not eaten?
You had eaten.	We had not eaten.	Had we eaten?	Had we not eaten?
He/she/it had eaten.	He/she/it had not eaten.	Had he/she/it eaten?	Had he/she/it not eaten?



## Grammar Byte

### Affirmative Sentences

The affirmative sentences are formed with **had + past participle form** of verb.

**Example :** We **had finished** our homework.

### Negative Sentences

The negative sentences are formed by using **not** after **had**.

**Example :** We **had not finished** our homework.

### Interrogative Sentences

The interrogative sentences are formed by placing **had** before the **subject**.

**Example :** **Had** we **finished** our homework?

### Negative Interrogative Sentences

The negative interrogative sentences are formed by placing **had** before the **subject** and **not** before the **main verb**.

**Example :** **Had** we **not finished** our homework?

## Uses of the Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense is used:

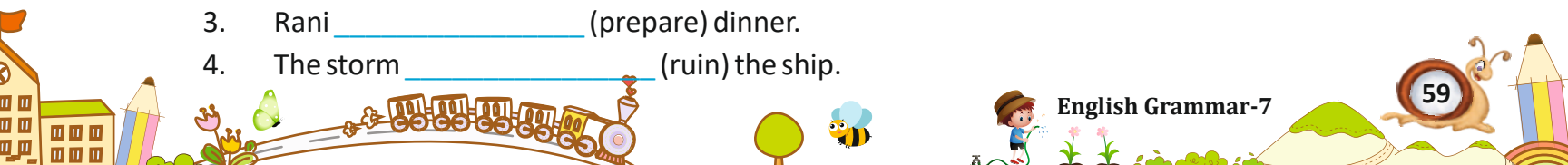
- to describe an action or event that was finished at some point of time in the past  
**Example :** The workers **had built** the house.
- to describe an action that had been completed before another action began in the past  
**Example :** The patient **had died** before the doctor reached.
- to express an action in the past which became the cause of another action in the past  
**Example :** The woodcutter was crying because he **had lost** her axe.

### C. Fill in the blanks with the past perfect tense form of the verb given in the brackets.

1. Simran and Kajol \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) each other before.
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ (go) there.
3. Rani \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) dinner.
4. The storm \_\_\_\_\_ (ruin) the ship.



Skills/Level  
WRITING/B2





## Past Perfect Continuous Tense

The past perfect continuous tense is a verb tense that describes an action that started in the past and continued until a specific time in the past.

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Negative Interrogative
I had been working.	I had not been working.	Had I been working?	Had I not been working?
We had been working.	We had not been working.	Had we been working?	Had we not been working?
You had been working.	You had not been working.	Had you been working?	Had you not been working?
He/she/it had been working.	He/she/it had not been working.	Had he/she/ it been working?	Had he/she/it not been working?



### Grammar Byte

#### • Affirmative Sentences

The affirmative sentences are formed with **had + been + ing form of root form of the verb**.

**Example :** It **had been raining** since last night.

#### • Negative Sentences

The negative sentences are formed by putting **not** between **had** and **been**.

**Example :** It **had not been raining** since last night.

#### • Interrogative Sentences

The interrogative sentences are formed by placing **had** before the **subject**.

**Example :** **Had** it **been raining** since last night?

#### • Negative Interrogative Sentences

The negative interrogative sentences are formed by placing **had** before the **subject** and **not** before **been**.

**Example :** **Had** it **not been raining** since last night?

## Uses of the Past Perfect Continuous Tense

The past perfect continuous tense is used:

- to talk about an action that was going on for some time in the past and was completed in the past  
**Example :** I **had been waiting** for months.
- to express an action or an event which was going on for sometime before another action took place  
**Example :** I **had been waiting** for hours before she met me.
- to express a repeated action in the past  
**Example :** I **had been asking** father for money.
- to express an action that began before the time of speaking in the past and stopped before the time of speaking or continued up to it.  
**Example :** It **had been raining** since last night.







**D. Fill in the blanks with the past perfect continuous tense form of the verbs given in the brackets.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for me since 6 o'clock?
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) to herself when she noticed I was looking at her.
3. Mother \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) when father reached.
4. The boy \_\_\_\_\_ (play) since morning.



## My Activity Corner

Read the following story. Then write the same story as though it happened 10 years ago.

There is a girl named Mary. She lives in a small village with her parents and brother. Mary is a kind and hardworking girl. Every day, she wakes up early and helps her parents in the farm. In the afternoon, she goes to school to learn and play with her friends. Mary starts her journey and soon reaches the entrance of the forest. As she walks deeper into the forest, she sees many beautiful trees and animals. She also sees a small house in the distance. She walks towards the house and sees an old woman sitting outside. The old woman greets Mary and asks her why she is in the forest. Mary explains that she heard about the magical forest and wanted to explore it. The old woman tells her that she is a fairy and that the forest is indeed Magical. She gives Mary a magical flower and tells her that if she ever needs help, she just has to hold the flower and the fairy will appear. Mary thanks the fairy and continues her journey. She spends the whole day exploring the forest and having fun. When she returns home, her parents are very happy to see her. They ask her about her adventure and Mary tells them everything. From that day on, Mary visits the forest often and makes many new friends. She always holds the magical flower and knows that the fairy will always be there to help her. And she lives happily ever after.

You can begin this way.

There was a girl named Mary. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## My EeeBee Interactive Activities



Listening



Speaking



Reading



Writing



Grammar



Vocabulary

WRITE YOUR SCORE

Practice your LSRW Skills



on Communication Lab

