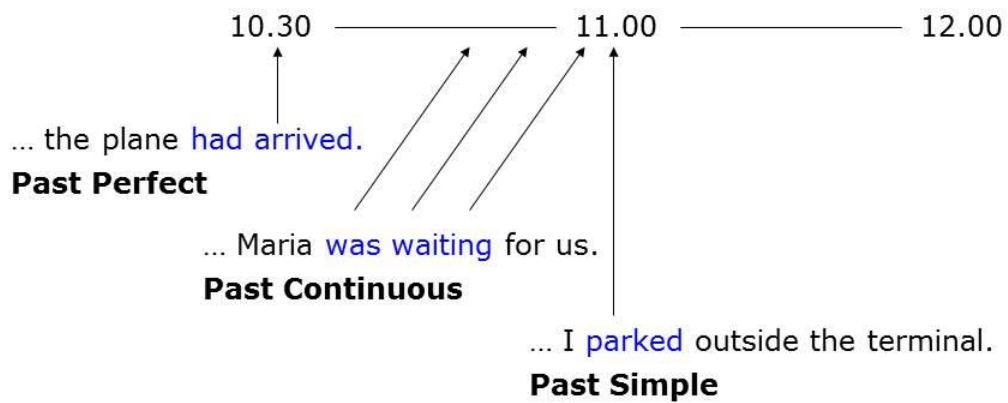


Unit three

▶ 3.1 Past Tenses

1 We use different past tenses to describe moments and periods of time in the past.

When we got to the airport at 11.00...



▶ 3.2 Past Simple

1 The form of the Past Simple is the same for all persons.

I **worked** hard.

You **didn't call** me.

When **did** they **arrive**?

Did it snow? Yes, it **did**./No, it **didn't**.

2 The Past Simple is used to express ...

1 **We met John yesterday.**

... a finished action in the past.

2 **I woke up at 3am, went downstairs and saw a burglar.**

... actions that follow each other in a story.

3 **When he was a student, Paul worked in a pub.**

... a past situation or habit.

▶ 3.2 Past Simple

3 Spelling of verb + *-ed*

clean **cleaned** Most verbs add *-ed* to the verb.

arrive **arrived** Verbs that end in *-e* add *-d*.

clap **clapped** Verbs of one syllable, with one vowel + one
consonant – double the consonant and add *-ed*.

stay **stayed** The consonant is not doubled if it is *-y* or *-w*.

regret **regretted** In most two-syllable verbs, the end consonant is
doubled if the stress is on the second syllable.

happen **happened** We don't double the consonant if the stress is
on the first syllable.

worry **worried** Verbs that end in a consonant + *-y* change the
-y to *-ied*.

There are many common irregular verbs.

▶ 3.3 Past Continuous

1 We form the Past Continuous with *was/were* + verb + *-ing*.

I **was having** lunch.

They **weren't dancing**.

What **were** you **saying**?

Were you **laughing**? **Yes, I was./No, I wasn't.**

2 The Past Continuous is used:

1 **At 8pm last night I was watching TV.**

to express activities in progress before, and probably after, a particular time in the past.

2 **When we got to the beach, it was raining.**

for descriptions.

▶ 3.3 Past Continuous

3 **John was taking a nap when we arrived.** (We woke him up)
to express an interrupted past activity.

4 **They were playing chess at lunch.** (They didn't finish)
to express an incomplete activity.

They played chess at lunch. (They finished a game)

5 Make the sentences

1 He/not/drive **He wasn't driving.**

2 What/Ida/wear/at the party? **What was Ida wearing at the party?**

3 They/not/look. **They weren't looking.**

▶ 3.4 Past Simple or Past Continuous?

1 Sometimes both tenses are possible.

I'm sorry I didn't go out with you last night.

I **did** my homework (instead).

Focus on the action as a completed fact.

I **was doing** my homework.

Focus on the duration of activities.

2 Questions in the Past Simple and Past Continuous refer to different time periods.

What **was** Sam **doing** when the alarm rang? **He was sleeping.**

The Past Continuous asks about activities before.

What **did** Sam **do** when the alarm rang? **He ran outside.**

The Past Simple asks about what happened after.

▶ 3.4 Past Simple or Past Continuous?

3 Write the questions that match the answer.

A What/Maria/say/when you arrived?

What did Maria say when you arrived?

B She told me I was late.

A What/Maria/say/when you arrived?

What was Maria saying when you arrived?

B She was telling her son to answer the phone.

▶ 3.5 *Used to*

1 *Used to* expresses a habit or state in the past that is now finished.

We *used to* live with our grandmother. But we *don't* now.
I *didn't use to* like chocolate. But I *do* now.
Did you *use to* watch cartoons?

2 Make the sentences with *used to*.

1 I / eat / spicy food I *used to* eat spicy food.

2 You / have / a motorbike ? Did you *use to* have a motorbike?

▶ 3.6 *Past Perfect*

1 The Past Perfect refers to an action in the past that was completed before another action in the past.

The form of the Past Perfect is the same for all persons.

| | | |
|-----|----------|--------------------------|
| I | 'd (had) | visited New York before. |
| You | hadn't | eaten dinner by 7pm. |
| We | | |

| | | |
|-----------|------|-------------------|
| Where had | you | |
| | she | put the car keys? |
| | they | |

Had he already emailed you? *Yes, he had./No, he hadn't.*

▶ 3.6 Past Perfect

- 2 The Past Perfect is used to make clear that one action in the past happened before another action in the past.

When Paul arrived, we **had finished** dinner.

↑
This happened before Paul arrived.

- 3 The Past Simple tells a story in chronological order.

Lara **moved** to Canada in 2006, she **met** Bob in 2007 and they **got** married in 2009.

2006 → **2007** → **2008** → **2009**

The Past Perfect can tell the story in a different order.

Bob and Lara **got** married in 2009. Lara **had moved** to Canada in 2006 and **had met** Bob in 2007.

▶ 3.6 Past Perfect

- 4 Notice the difference between these sentences.

When I got here, Omar **left**.

First, I arrived, then Omar left.

When I got here, Omar **had left**.

First, Omar left, then I arrived.

- 5 The Past Perfect Continuous refers to longer actions or repeated activities.

By 6.00 I was hungry, because **I'd been playing** tennis all afternoon.

- 6 Make the sentences.

1 I was tired, as I **'d been travelling** (travel) all day.

2 We were late. When we arrived, the game **had started** (start)

3 When we rang, Lena **answered** (answer).

▶ 3.7 Past tenses in the passive

1 The uses of the past tenses are the same in the passive as in the active.

2 We form the Past Simple passive using *was/were* + past participle.
The new library **was built** in 2010.

↑
past participle (finished action in the past)

3 We form the Past Continuous passive using *was/were being* + past participle.

The museum **was being renovated** when I visited.

(interrupted past activity)

▶ 3.7 Past tenses in the passive

4 We form the Past Perfect passive using *had been* + past participle.

I didn't see Tina because she **had been delayed** at the airport.
(one action before another action in the past)

5 Complete the two sentences.

The office was being repainted when we arrived. (repaint)

(interrupted past activity)

The office had been repainted when we arrived. (repaint)

(one action before another action in the past)