

PAST TENSE GUIDE

Simple Past

- -ed for regular verbs, there are also irregular verbs
- Event that happened in the past (completed, often pin-point time)
- I walked in the park.

Past Continuous

- Was / were + verb + ing
- Same conditions as simple past, but discusses an event that spans a long period of time, is continuous, progressive
- I was going to the theater when you called me.

Present Perfect

- Have + past participle
- Started in the past & continued to the present –or– started & ended in the past but is somehow connected to the present –or– to emphasize the result of an action (experience, accomplishment)
- I have worked here for five years. I have been to France. I have studied well for this exam.

Present Perfect Continuous

- Have / Has + been + verb + ing
- Same as present perfect, but discusses an event that spans a long period of time, is continuous, progressive
- I have been working in this place for many years.

Past Perfect

- Had + past participle
- Deeper in the past, comparing events that happened in the past (deeper in the past)
- I **had written** a letter for you when you told me you were coming to visit.

Past Perfect Continuous

- Had + been + verb + ing
- Same conditions as past perfect, but discusses an event that spans a long period of time, is continuous, progressive (ongoing action)
- I had been working here for ten years when they fired me.