Chapter 2 Past Tense

2.1. THE SIMPLE PAST
The simple past is used to talk about activities or situations that began and ended in the past such as: yesterday, last night, two days ago, in 1990 etc.

Temmy walked downtown last night.
I slept for five hours yesterday.

Most simple past verbs are formed by adding -ed to a verb as in the above examples. However, some verbs have irregular past forms as in the following example:

We ate breakfast this morning.
Tom took a taxi to the airport.
The boy gave me a pencil.

THE FORM OF SIMPLE PAST

Statement:
The simple past tense in regular verbs is formed by adding -ed to the infinitive:

Infinitive: to talk  Simple past: talked
to walk          walked
to work          worked

Verbs ending in e add d only:

Infinitive: to love  Simple past: loved
to move          moved
to code          coded

The same form is used for all persons, no inflexions:
I moved       He moved       You moved
We walked     You walked     He walked
She worked    I worked       They worked
The pattern of the statement / positive sentence is:

**Subject + Past Tense Verb ........**

Examples:
- You worked hard last year.
- I went to Bandung last week.
- They ate lunch in the cafetaria.

**Negative:**
The negative form of regular and irregular is formed with **did not** and the infinitive without to.
- I did not work.
- He did not work.
- You did not work.

The pattern of simple past negative sentence is:

**Subject + did not (didn’t) + infinitive (verb 1) ....**

Examples:
- I did not (didn’t) come there yesterday.
- We did not (didn’t) eat lunch.
- He did not (didn’t) drink the water.

**Interrogative:**
- Did she come here last night?
- Did you read the notice yesterday?
- Did they collect the money last week?
- What did she read yesterday?
- Where did you go two days ago?
- Why did he come late?

The pattern of interrogative sentence is:

**Did + Subject + infinitive ....**

**Question words + did + Subject + infinitive ...**

Notes: Questions with a question-word demand a complete answer.
Yes/No questions should be answer in short form

Short Answer of Yes/No questions:

**Yes + Subject + did**

**No + Subject + didn’t**
EXERCISE-1: Put the verbs into the following sentences into the simple past tense.
1. I go to work by car.
2. I meet her on Sundays.
3. My friend always wears black.
4. He makes cakes every week.
5. She gets up at 5.30.
6. Father understands me.
7. The man shuts the shop at 5.30.
8. Jane speaks quickly.
9. The boy leaves the house at 7.30.
10. I read newspaper every morning.
11. Tom eats too much.
12. The boy sees her every day.
13. Tom sings in the bathroom.
14. She cries when she is hurt.
15. Who knows the solution?
16. The curtain rises at 8.30.
17. The man takes the dog out once a day.
18. We buy the food here.
19. The fat boy often feels ill.
20. She knows what I want.
21. The cake smells good.
22. The girls lie down after dinner.
23. The young boy rides every morning.
24. These cats fight whenever they meet.
25. She puts up his prices every year.

THE CONTRACTION

did not is normally contracted in the negative dan negative interrogative:
I didn’t work. Didn’t I work?
You didn’t study. Didn’t you study?
We didn’t work. Didn’t we work?

EXERCISE-2: Put the verbs in the following sentences into (a) the negative and (b) interrogative.
1. He saw your sister.
2. We heard a nice song.
3. The boy slept in the morning.
4. The girl looked at the mirror.
5. The boys ate all the food.
6. The men set out early.
7. He thought about it.
8. The police caught the thief.
9. My sister hid her letter.
10. The boy found his book.
11. My uncle lent me enough money.
12. He broke his arm.
13. She lost her wallet.
15. We flew to Oregon.
16. The men broadcast an appeal of money.
17. I forgave her.
18. The young man shook the bottle.
19. The boys ran home.
20. The sun rose at 5.30.
21. Jane rang the bell.
22. She sold her house.
23. The lady spent all of her money here.
24. Joy kept the money.
25. We sent it to the laundry.

EXERCISE- 3: Answer the questions.
Use the Simple Present or the Simple Past.

1. What are some things you usually do every morning?
   What are some things you did last Sunday?
2. What do you usually do in the evening?
   What did you do last night?
3. What do you usually do at home?
   What did you do at home yesterday?
4. What do you usually do after class?
   What did you do after class last Tuesday?
5. What did you do three days ago?
   What did you do last month?

EXERCISE- 4: Read the following in the past simple tense and the negative past simple.

1. He breaks a cup.
2. It begins to rain again.
3. They like apples.
4. You cut the apple quickly.
5. The girl comes early.
7. I lie on the bed.
8. The man teaches English.
9. The rivers flow to the sea.
10. I know your name.
11. You lie to me.
12. The prisoners run away.
13. The boy tears his coat.
14. They have a car.
15. We wake up at seven.
16. Your cat bites him.
17. It costs a lot of money.
18. You hide the key.
19. The servant sweeps the room.
20. The man drink tea every day.
22. You find your bag.
23. Someone steals the money.
24. We ring the bell.
25. You wear a beautiful dress.
26. The boy throws the ball.
27. I put the book on the table.
28. Mother makes a cup of tea.
29. You spend too much money.
30. The little boy falls down.

EXERCISE- 5: Answer the following questions:

1. Where did you buy that book?
2. How much did it cost?
3. Did you learn English at school?
4. When did you leave school?
5. What time did you get up this morning?
6. What did you have for breakfast?
7. Did you find the last exercise difficult?
8. Did you go to the seaside last summer?
9. How long did you spend there?
10. Did your friends go to Bali bay air or by sea?
11. Which of these books did you like best?
12. How many cups of coffee did you drink yesterday?
13. Did you come here on a bicycle or by bus?
14. When did you visit Bali?
15. When did you last write a letter?
16. When did you last see a tiger?
17. When did you last hear some music?
18. Did you understand the last questions?
19. What did you take home to read last week?
20. When did you last drink some coffee?

**THE PRINCIPAL PARTS OF A VERB**

**REGULAR VERBS:**

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**EXERCISE- 6:** Answer the following questions:

1. When did you last see me?
2. Where did you write your last homework?
3. What have you done for the paper?
4. When did the lesson begin?
5. Have you learnt all the English strong verbs by heart?
6. What did you eat for breakfast today?
7. How much did that pencil cost?
8. When did you close the door?
9. How did you come to your class yesterday?
10. When did you begin to learn Arabics.
11. Have you been to the beach this week?
12. Where did you spend your holiday last month?
13. Where did you go last week?
14. What did you eat last night?
15. Did you learn English here last week?
2.2. THE PAST CONTINUOUS

THE FORM OF PAST CONTINUOUS
The past continuous tense is formed by the past tense of the verb to be + the present participle (verb-ing form).

Affirmative form:

**Subject + was/were + Verb-ing**

I was working.  
You were working.  
She was working.  
They were working.  
He was working.  
We were working.

Negative form:

**Subject + was/were + not + Verb-ing**

I was not working.  
You were not working.  
She was not working.  
They were not working.  
He was not working.  
We were not working.

Notes: **was/were not** is usually contracted in the negative.

I wasn’t working.  
You weren’t working.  
She wasn’t working.  
They weren’t working.

Remember some verbs which are not normally used in continuous tenses (1-2-1).

SPELLING NOTES
When a verb ends in a single e, this e is dropped before **ing**:

love - loving  
hate - hating  
argue - arguing  
make - making  
move - moving  
solve - solving

This does not happen when the verb ends in **ee**:

agree - agreeing  
see - seeing

When a verb of one syllable has one vowel and ends in a single consonant, this consonant is doubled before **ing**:

hit - hitting  
run - running  
stop - stopping  
drop - dropping
THE USE OF PAST CONTINUOUS

Past continuous tense is chiefly used for past actions which continued for some time but whose exact limits are not known and are not important.

When it is used without a time expression it can indicate gradual development:

   It was getting darker.
   The wind was rising.

When it is used with a point in time, it expresses an action which began before that time and probably continued after it. At six he was having breakfast implies that he was in the middle of breakfast at six. He started it before six. He had breakfast at six would imply that he started it at six.

If we replace the time expression with a verb in the simple past tense:

   When I arrived John was reading the novel.

We convey the idea that the action in the past continuous started before the action in the simple past and probably continued after it. Compare this combination with a combination of two simple past tenses, which normally indicates successive actions:

   When he saw me he put the receiver down.

The past continuous with always:

   He was always ringing me up.

This expresses a frequently repeated past action, which probably annoyed the speaker.

The past continuous can be used as an alternative to the simple past to indicate a more casual, less deliberate action:

   I was talking to Tom the other day.

The past continuous here gives the impression that the action was in no way unusual or remarkable. It also tends to remove responsibility from the subject. In the above example it is not clear who started the conversation, and it does not matter. Note the contrast with the simple past tense, I talked to Tom, which indicates that I took the initiative.

Note that continuous tenses are used only for apparently continuous uninterrupted actions. If we divide the action up, or say how many times it happened, we must use the simple past.

   I talked to Tom several times.
But we may, of course, use the continuous for apparently parallel actions:

Between one and two I was doing the shopping and walking the dog.

This tense is normally used in this way with a time expression such as today, last night, in the afternoon, which could either be regarded as points in time or as periods. Periods can also be indicated by exact times as shown above.

In questions about how a period was spent, the continuous often, appears more polite than the simple past: What were you doing before you came here? sounds more polite than What did you do before you came here?

On the other hand What were you doing in my room? could indicate a feeling that I think you had no right to be there, but What did you do in my room? could never give this impression.

EXERCISE - 7: Put the verbs in brackets into past continuous if necessary.

1. When I arrived Tom (talked) on the telephone.
2. From five to six Roy (washed) the car.
3. What were you (did) in the room when I came?
4. Mother came while I (slept).
5. When the phone (rang), I (had) dinner.
6. While I (did) my homework, my roommate (watched) TV.
7. When someone (knocked) the door, the boy (played) cards.
8. When Tina (saw) the girls. They (stood) under the tree.
9. Last Sunday I (went) to visit Tina. When I (get) there around seven o’clock, she (be) in the yard. She (plant) flowers in her garden.
10. Last night I (visit) one of my friends. When I (arrive) in his house, he (read) a newspaper.

USING TIME CLAUSES FOR EXPRESSING PAST TIME

A clause is a structure that has a subject and a verb. Time clause is a clause that is used as an adverb of time, indicating the time when an event occurred.

When I went to Surabaya, I visited my younger brother.

I visited my younger brother when I went to Surabaya.

when I went to Surabaya is a time clause. I visited my younger brother is a main clause.

The above sentences have the same meaning. And a time clause can be:
1) In front of a main clause
2) follow a main clause
The words *when, after, before* and *while* introduce time clauses. These introducing words are followed by a subject and a predicate.

*When he came in, I was eating an apple.*
I was eating an apple *when he came in.*

*After Jane ate the food, she went to the library.*
Jane went to the library *after she ate the food.*

*Before I went to bed, I read the novel.*
I read the novel *before I went to bed.*

*While I was reading a newspaper, the phone rang.*
The phone rang *while I was reading a newspaper.*

When a time clause comes in front of the main clause, put a comma at the end of the time clause.

In a sentence with a time clause introduced by *when,* both the time clause verb and the main clause verb can be simple past. In this case, the action in the "*when clause*" happened first.

*When the man knocked the door, I opened it.*

**EXERCISE- 8:** Combine the two sentences into one sentence by using time clauses.

1. First : I got home.
   Then: I ate lunch.
   a). After .............................................
   b). .................................................. *after*

2. First : I washed the car.
   Then: I went to the office.
   a). After ................................................
   b). .................................................... *after*

3. First : I was having breakfast.
   Then: Roy came.
   a). After ..........................................................
   b). .......................................................... *after*

4. First : It began to rain.
   Then: I used my umbrella.
   a). After ..........................................................
   b). .......................................................... *after*
5. First: Tina read the letter.
   Then: She cried.
   a). After ..................................................
   b). ......................................................... after ..................................................

**EXPRESSING PAST HABIT: USED TO**

*Used to* expresses a past situation or habit that no longer exists at present. “Used to” is followed by the simple form of a verb.

I used to live with my parents. Now I live in my own house.
Ann used to be afraid of dogs, but now she likes dogs.
Tom used to get drunk, but he doesn’t anymore.

The questions form of used to is:

**Did + subject + use to**

Did you use to live in Bali?
Did you use to smoke?

The negative form is: *didn’t use to* or *never used to*

**EXERCISE-9:** Complete the following sentences using words in brackets. Each sentence should have a form of *used to*.

1. I ....................... (ride) my bicycle to go to campus, but now I take the bus.
2. What time ....................... (eat) dinner when you were a boy.
3. My brother ....................... (not stay up) past midnight, but now he often go to bed very late.
4. Tina ....................... (be) reckless when she was young, but now she is not.
5. Rony ....................... (play) chess at night, but now he doesn’t.

**PREPOSITIONS OF TIME: IN, AT, and ON**

The following are time expressions containing *in, at, and on*.

**In:**
- in the past
- in the future
- in the afternoon
- in the present
- in the morning
- in the evening
in January
in 1990
in the second century in + a week/ a month/ a year/ a century/ a season
in (the) summer
in this week

At:

at noon at night
at midnight at present
at the moment at the present time
at + “clock time”

On:

on Thursday
on Wednesday morning
on January 20, 1997
on Sunday afternoon
on Friday evening

EXERCISE -10 : Complete the sentences wit in, at or on.

1. My sister is a student .......... the present time.
2. The man talked to me what happen ........ the past.
3. My younger brother sleep .......... night.
4. Father always wathes TV .......... the evening.
5. The boy was born .......... the summer.
6. I see a film ........... Sunday.
7. The youn lady takes a nap .......... the afternoon.
8. I am busy .............. present. You may call again.
9. I always take a walk .......... the morning before I go to campus.

USING THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TO EXPRESS FUTURE TIME

Sometimes the present continuous is used to express future time:

Tom is going to come to the party tomorrow night.
Tom is coming to the party tomorrow night.

The two sentences above have the same meaning.

The present continuous is used to express future time when the sentence concerns a definite plan, a definite intention, a definite future activity.
Verbs such as *come, go, stay, arrive, leave* are frequently used in the present continuous to express future time. Such verbs express definite plans.

*I'm going to stay home tonight.*
*I'm staying home tonight.*

Verb expressing planned means of transportation in the future are also frequently used in the present progressive; for example, *fly, walk, ride, drive, take* (a bus, a taxi, etc.).

Sometimes a speaker will use the present continuous when he or she wants to make a very strong statement about a future activity.

A: You shouldn’t buy that car. It’s in terrible condition. It costs too much.
B: I am buying that car tomorrow morning! My mind is made up. Nobody can stop me.
I am buying that car, and that’s it!