

Past Tenses in English

Kurallar, Kullanım Alanları ve Örneklerle Kapsamlı Rehber

English Grammar

Past Tenses — Genel Bakış

Simple Past

S + V2 (ed / irregular)

Past Continuous

S + was/were + V-ing

Past Perfect

S + had + V3

Past Perfect Continuous

S + had been + V-ing

1. Simple Past Tense

Formula:



S + V2 (ed / irregular)

Time Expressions:


yesterday, last week/month/year, ago, in 2010, when, this morning,...

Usage Areas

- 1** **Finished actions at a specific past time:** **I watched a great movie last night.** — Dün gece harika bir film izledim.
- 2** **A series of finished events in the past:** **I woke up, brushed my teeth, and had breakfast.** — Uyandım, dişlerimi fırçaladım ve kahvaltı yaptım.
- 3** **Past habits or routines:** **I always walked to school when I was a child.** — Çocukken her zaman okula yürürdüm.
- 4** **Past experiences or accomplishments:** **She published her first book when she was 25.** — 25 yaşındayken ilk kitabını yayınladı.

Simple Past vs Present Perfect



Aspect	Simple Past	Present Perfect
Time Reference	Specific time: I visited Paris in 2019.	Unspecified time: I have visited Paris.
Connection to Present	No connection: She lost her keys yesterday.	Has present impact: She has lost her keys.
Keywords	yesterday, last week, in 2010, ago, when	already, ever, never, just, yet, since, for
Experience vs Event	Completed event: They went to Japan last year.	Life experience: They have been to Japan.
Repeated Actions	I called him 3 times yesterday. (day is over)	I have called him 3 times today. (day is not over)
 <i>He never drank alcohol all his life. (He is dead.) — He has never drunk alcohol. (He is alive.)</i>		

Past Structures with Present Meaning

Geçmiş zaman yapısı kullanılır ama anlam şimdiki zamandır.

It's (high) time + past tense

It's time you went to bed.

Artık yatma zamanı geldi.

Would you mind if I + past tense

Would you mind if I opened the window?

Pencereyi açsam sakıncası olur mu?

I would rather you + past tense

I would rather you stayed at home today.

Bugün evde kalmanı tercih ederim.

As if / As though + past tense

He acts as if he knew everything.

Her şeyi biliyormuş gibi davranıyor.

I wish / If only + past tense

I wish I had more free time.

Keşke daha çok boş vaktim olsa.

2. Past Continuous Tense

Formula: **S + was/were + V-ing**

Time Expressions:

when, while, as, at + specific past time (at 5 p.m. yesterday, in 1990), ...

PAST



NOW

1. Actions in Progress

I was studying when the power went out.

2. Interrupted Actions

While he was watching a movie, his phone rang.

3. Background / Setting

The birds were chirping when I woke up.

4. Parallel Actions

I was reading while my sister was listening to music.

"Was/Were Going To" – Future in the Past

Formula: **S + was/were + going to + V1**

Geçmişte planlanmış ama gerçekleşmemiş eylemleri ifade eder.

We were going to visit the museum, but we ran out of time.

Müzezi ziyaret edecektik ama zamanımız kalmadı.

He was going to call you, but he forgot.

Seni arayacaktı ama unuttu.

I was going to apply for that job, but I missed the deadline.

O işe başvuracaktım ama son tarihi kaçırdım.

She was going to bake a cake, but she didn't have enough flour.

Pasta yapacaktı ama yeterli unu yoktu.

3. Past Perfect Tense

Formula: **S + had + V3**



Geçmişteki iki olaydan önce olanı anlatır. Etkisi de geçmişte kalmıştır.

PAST
PERFECT

SIMPLE
PAST

NOW

Simple Past vs Past Perfect — Olay Sırası

SP: When I arrived at the cinema, the film started. — *Önce ben geldim, sonra film başladı.*

PP: When I arrived at the cinema, the film had started. — *Film zaten başlamıştı, ben sonra geldim.*

SP: After I went out, it started to rain. — *Önce çıktım, sonra yağmur başladı.*

PP: After I went out, it had started to rain. — *Yağmur zaten başlamıştı, ben sonra çıktım.*

Past Perfect – Key Structures (1)

No sooner ... than (...-r ...-maz)

I had no sooner entered the room than the phone rang.

No sooner had I entered the room than the phone rang.

Odaya girer girmez telefon çaldı.

We had no sooner sat down to eat than the doorbell rang.

No sooner had we sat down to eat than the doorbell rang.

Yemek için oturur oturmaz kapı zili çaldı.

Hardly / Scarcely ... when/before (...-r ...-maz)

I had hardly gone out when it started to rain.

Hardly had I gone out when it started to rain.

Dışarı çıkar çıkmaz yağmur yağmaya başladı.

We had hardly started eating when the lights went out.

Hardly had we started eating when the lights went out.

Yemeye başlar başlamaz elektrikler kesildi.

Past Perfect — Key Structures (2)

If Clause Type 3 — Gerçekleşmemiş geçmiş durumlar

If + S + had + V3, S + would have + V3

If she had studied harder, she would have passed the exam.

If we had taken a taxi, we wouldn't have been late.

Wish / If only — Geçmişe dair pişmanlıklar

I wish I had studied medicine instead of engineering. — *Keşke mühendislik yerine tıp okumuş olsaydım.*

If only we had gone to Italy instead of France last summer. — *Keşke geçen yaz Fransa yerine İtalya'ya gitmiş olsaydık.*

Superlative + Past Perfect

That was the best book I had ever read. — *O ana kadar okumuş olduğum en iyi kitaptı.*

It was the worst experience he had ever had. — *O ana kadar yaşamış olduğu en kötü deneyimdi.*

She had given the most inspiring speech we had ever heard. — *O ana kadar duymuş olduğumuz en ilham verici konuşmayı yapmıştı.*

4. Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Formula: **S + had been + V-ing**

PAST
PERFECT
CONT.

SIMPLE
PAST

NOW

1. Duration before a past event

Geçmişteki bir olaydan önce süregelen eylemler

She had been working at the company for 5 years before she quit.

They had been waiting for 2 hours when the bus finally arrived.

I had been studying all night, so I was exhausted.

2. Cause of a past situation

Geçmişteki bir durumun nedeni

He was tired because he had been running.

Her eyes were red because she had been crying.

The ground was wet because it had been raining.

Past Perfect vs Past Perfect Continuous

Past Perfect Simple

Focus: Completion / Result

I had finished my homework before dinner.

(Akşam yemeğinden önce ödevimi bitirmişt看.)

Stative verb'lerle kullanılır:

I had known her since childhood.

Past Perfect Continuous

Focus: Duration / Ongoing Process

I had been doing my homework for 3 hours.

(3 saattir ödevimi yapıyordum.)

Eylemin süresi ve etkisi vurgulanır:

He was tired — he had been running.



Present Perfect vs Past Perfect: Present Perfect'te etki ŞİMDİ üzerine (I have lost my phone → still don't have it). Past Perfect'te etki GEÇMİŞTE kalmıştır (I had lost my phone → I had to buy a new one then).

When to Use Which Past Tense?

Finished action at a specific past time?

Simple Past

→ *I visited Paris in 2019.*

An action was in progress at a past moment?

Past Continuous

→ *I was reading at 9 p.m.*

An action interrupted another ongoing action?

Past Cont. + Simple Past

→ *I was cooking when the phone rang.*

An action happened BEFORE another past event?

Past Perfect

→ *The film had started when I arrived.*

How long something had been going on before a past event?

Past Perfect Continuous

→ *I had been waiting for 2 hours when the bus came.*

Quick Reference — All Past Tenses

Tense	Form	Use	Example	Time Expressions
Simple Past	V2 (ed/irreg.)	Finished actions, habits, series of events	She worked yesterday.	yesterday, ago, last week
Past Continuous	was/were + V-ing	In progress, interrupted, parallel actions	She was working at 5 p.m.	when, while, as, at + time
Past Perfect	had + V3	Before another past event, result in the past	She had worked before lunch.	before, after, by the time, already
Past Perf. Cont.	had been + V-ing	Duration before a past event, cause	She had been working all day.	for, since, all day/night

Past Tenses in English — Study Guide

www.imgedil.com

Practice makes perfect! Keep studying and reviewing.