

## UNIT 2 PAST TENSE

### Objectives

1. To be able to perceive what Past Tense is
2. To be able to apply Past Tense in various contexts
3. To be able to communicate in English with correct Past Tense in various contexts

### Test Yourself

Complete the sentences with the correct verb forms.

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) when we were studying in France.
2. As soon as she came in I knew I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) her before.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ (not sleep) well last night so he looks terrible now.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for the train for three hours before it arrived at the station.
5. Seth \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) the party last Friday.

### 2.1 Past Simple

#### FORM

#### Affirmative

You			yesterday.
We	were /	at Suan Sunandha	last year.
They	worked	Rajabhat	two years ago.
The teachers		University.	in May.
(A plural noun)			on Wednesday.

I He She It The teacher <i>(A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</i>	was / worked	at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.	
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**Negative**

You We They The teachers <i>(A plural noun)</i>	weren't / didn't work	at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.	yesterday. last year. two years ago. in May. on Wednesday.
I He She It The teacher <i>(A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</i>	wasn't / didn't work	at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.	

**Yes/No Questions and short answers**

Questions			Short answers	
Was	I	good at English?	Yes, you were	No, you were not. / weren't.
Were	you we they the teachers <i>(A plural noun)</i>	at the university?	Yes, I was. Yes, we were. Yes, they were.	No, I was not. No, we were not (weren't) No, they were not.

Was	he she it the teacher <i>(A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</i>	at the university?	Yes, s/ he was. Yes, it was.	No, s/ he was not. (wasn't) No, it was not. (wasn't)
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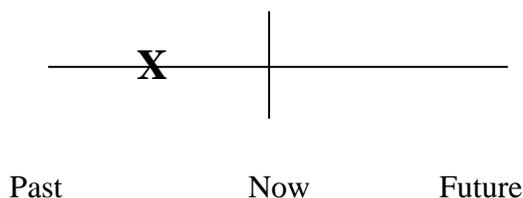
Questions		Short answers		
Did	I you we they the teachers <i>(A plural noun)</i>	write a letter last night?	Yes, I did. Yes, you did. Yes, we did . Yes, they did .	No, I didn't . (did not) No, you didn't . No, we didn't . No, they didn't .
Did	he she it the teacher <i>(A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</i>	write a letter last night?	Yes, s/ he did. Yes, it did.	No, s/ he didn't . (did not) No, it didn't .

### Wh-Questions and answers

Questions			Answers
What	were	those?	They were rainbows.
	was	that?	It was a rainbow.

Questions			Answers
What	did	they do?	They watched TV.
		it do?	It banged the window.

USE



1. Use present simple to talk about the finished events in the past with a definite time.

*Ex. William Shakespeare was born on or around 23 April 1564.*

2. It's also used to describe the events in a story.

*Ex. Sam heard something outside. Soon afterwards, the door opened.*

3. It's also used to describe habits and routines in the past with time words or phrases.

*Ex. Leonardo painted in his studio every day.*

Note

1. The verb form in past simple tense is often **-ed** (regular verbs). For example:

watch	→	watched	walk	→	walked
start	→	started	arrive	→	arrived

2. Verbs ending in **-y** can be transformed into:

study	→	studied	carry	→	carried
try	→	tried	marry	→	married

However, sometimes **-y** doesn't change to **-i** if the ending is **-ay / -ey / -oy** such as

enjoy	→	enjoyed	stay	→	stayed
play	→	played	convey	→	conveyed

3. Some verbs are irregular. So the past simple is not **-ed**. (*see also the Appendix*) Here are some examples.

begin	→	began	write	→	wrote
break	→	broke	see	→	saw
say	→	said	buy	→	bought

**Exercise 1** Complete the sentences. Use one of these verbs in the past tense.

clean   die   enjoy   finish   happen   open   rain   start   stay   want

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ his room last week.

2. It was too hot in the room so he \_\_\_\_\_ the window.
3. The match \_\_\_\_\_ at 8.00 and \_\_\_\_\_ at 9.30 yesterday.
4. When I was a child, I \_\_\_\_\_ to be a pilot.
5. The car accident \_\_\_\_\_ last Saturday afternoon.
6. The weather is much better today but yesterday it \_\_\_\_\_ all day.
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ our holiday last month. We \_\_\_\_\_ at a very nice hotel.
8. Sam's grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ when he was 95 years old.

**Exercise 2** Read about Adam's journey to Phuket. Put the verbs in the correct form.

Last Friday Adam (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (fly) from Bangkok to Phuket. He (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (get) up at 5.30 in the morning and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) his breakfast. At 6.30 he (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) home and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a bus to the airport. When he (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (get) off the bus and then he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to a coffee shop in the airport where he (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) his morning coffee. Then he (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) through the check-in counter and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for his flight. The plane (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (depart) on time and (13) \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) Phuket two hours later. Finally, he (14) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a taxi from the airport to his hotel in town.

**Exercise 3** Complete these sentences with the verb in the negative form.

1. I saw Brad but I \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) his girlfriend.
2. We had pens but we \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) any paper.
3. James did German at school but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not do) Italian.
4. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) at home last night but I was.
5. They \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) their dinner but I did.

**Exercise 4** Write a complete question with correct forms of verbs in past simple.

1. Q: What \_\_\_\_\_  
A: I watched TV with my father last night.
2. Q: When \_\_\_\_\_  
A: She finished her homework around 8 in the evening.
3. Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: Yes, they went to bed just before midnight last night.

4. Q: What \_\_\_\_\_

A: About half past five in the morning. It's quite early. I don't want to be late for school.

5. Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: No, I didn't sleep very well last night.

6. Q: Where \_\_\_\_\_

A: They went to the mountains and had some picnics last weekend.

7. Q: How much \_\_\_\_\_

A: It cost me 200 Baht for this ride home.

8. Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: No, he was at his office.

9. Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: Yes, I was in a shower so I didn't hear your call.

10. Q: What \_\_\_\_\_

A: I bought a book.

**Exercise 5** Complete these sentences using the word in brackets. Use the Present Perfect and the Past Simple.

1. Our team \_\_\_\_\_ (win) two competitions last year, and we \_\_\_\_\_ (win) two more this year as well.

2. I'm worried about my little sister. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) ill last week, and she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) ill most of this week as well.

3. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) Josh for a long time, but I finally \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) him yesterday.

4. Celine \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) smoking seven years ago. So this means she \_\_\_\_\_ (not smoke) for 7 years now.

5. Claire \_\_\_\_\_ (start) working for this company in Italy 6 months ago. So she \_\_\_\_\_ (work) for this company for 6 months.

6. A: What's that piece of paper?

B: It's my certificate. I \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) my final exam.

A: What mark \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (get)?

7. A: What's the problem?

B: Look. My car \_\_\_\_\_ (disappear)

A: Where \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (park) it?

8. A: Why are you crying?

B: See! I \_\_\_\_\_ (cut) myself.

A: How \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ (happen)?

9. A: Why \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (call) me in the middle of the night last night?

B: I \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) my car keys. I couldn't get home.

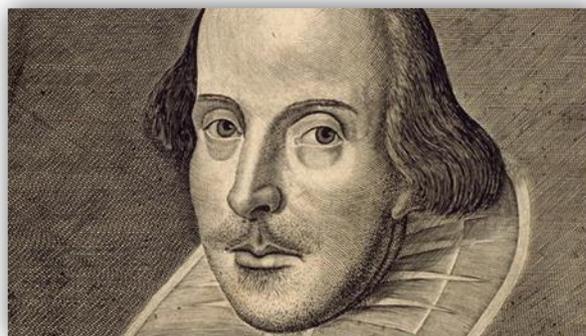
10. A: I \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) a postcard from Lucie with her baby boy's photo.

B: When \_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) the baby?

**Exercise 6** Complete the text with the past simple or present simple forms of verbs.

*Who \_\_\_\_\_ (be) William Shakespeare?*

William Shakespeare \_\_\_\_\_ (be) widely regarded as one of the greatest writers in the English language. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) born on or around 23 April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the eldest son of John Shakespeare, a prosperous glover and local dignitary, and Mary Arden, the daughter of a wealthy farmer. There \_\_\_\_\_ (be) no records of William's education, but he probably \_\_\_\_\_ (went) to King's New School – a reputable Stratford grammar school where he would have learned Latin, Greek, theology and rhetoric – and may have had a Catholic upbringing. He may also have seen plays by the travelling theatre groups touring Stratford in the 1560s and 70s. At 18, William \_\_\_\_\_ (marry) Anne Hathaway, and the couple \_\_\_\_\_ (have) three children over the next few years.



*What \_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare \_\_\_\_\_ (write)?*

Between about 1590 and 1613, Shakespeare \_\_\_\_\_ (write) at least 37 plays and \_\_\_\_\_ (collaborate) on several more. His 17 comedies \_\_\_\_\_ (include) The Merchant of Venice and Much Ado About Nothing. Among his 10 history plays \_\_\_\_\_ (be) Henry V and Richard III. The most famous among his tragedies \_\_\_\_\_ (be) Hamlet, Othello, King

Lear and Macbeth. Shakespeare also \_\_\_\_\_ (write) 4 poems, and a famous collection of Sonnets which \_\_\_\_\_ (be) first published in 1609.

**When \_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare \_\_\_\_\_ (die)?**

In 1613 the Globe \_\_\_\_\_ (burn) down and the same year Shakespeare \_\_\_\_\_ (retired) from the London theatre world and \_\_\_\_\_ (return) to Stratford. He \_\_\_\_\_ (die) on 23 April 1616 and \_\_\_\_\_ (be) buried in Holy Trinity Church, where he had been baptized 52 years earlier.

*Note.* Adapted from: British Library. The Project of Discover Literature. Shakespeare and key Renaissance writers. from British Library Web site: <https://www.bl.uk/people/william-shakespeare> (retrieved September 3, 2017)

## 2.2 Past Continuous, Used to do

### FORM

#### Affirmative

You We They The teachers (A plural noun)	were working	at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.	yesterday morning.
I He She It The teacher (A singular noun / An uncountable noun)	was working	at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.	3 o'clock yesterday.

**Negative**

You We They The teachers <i>(A plural noun)</i>	were not (weren't) working	at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.	yesterday morning.
I He She It The teacher <i>(A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</i>	was not (wasn't) working	at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.	3 o'clock yesterday.

**Yes/No Questions and short answers**

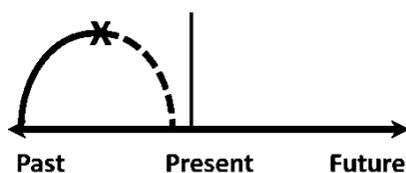
Questions			Short answers	
Was	I	working at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University?	Yes, you was	No, you were not. / weren't.
Were	you we they the teachers <i>(A plural noun)</i>		Yes, I was. Yes, we were. Yes, they were	No, I was not. No, we were not ( weren't ) No, they were not.
Was	he she		Yes, s/ he was.	No, s/ he was not. (wasn't)

it the teacher <i>(A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</i>		Yes, it was.	No, it' was not. (wasn't)
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### Wh-Questions and answers

Questions			Answers			
What	was	I		You were		
	were	you we they the teachers <i>(A plural noun)</i>		I was We were They were		
	was	he she it the teacher <i>(A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</i>	doing?	He was She was It was	sitting on the floor	yesterday morning?  3 o'clock yesterday?

## USE



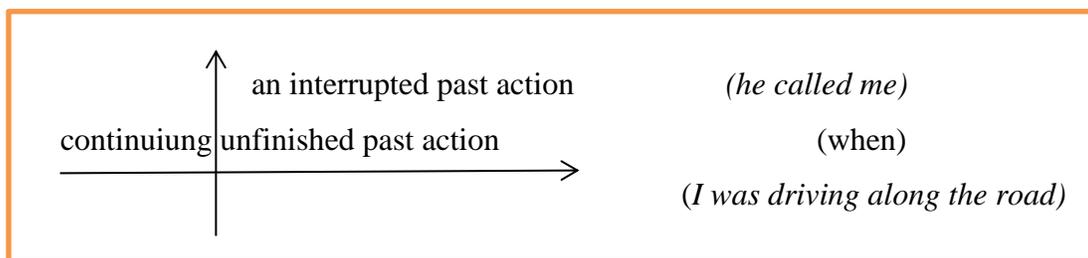
Use past continuous

1. for a continuing unfinished action in the past.

*Ex. Four people were waiting in the park yesterday morning at 10.30.*

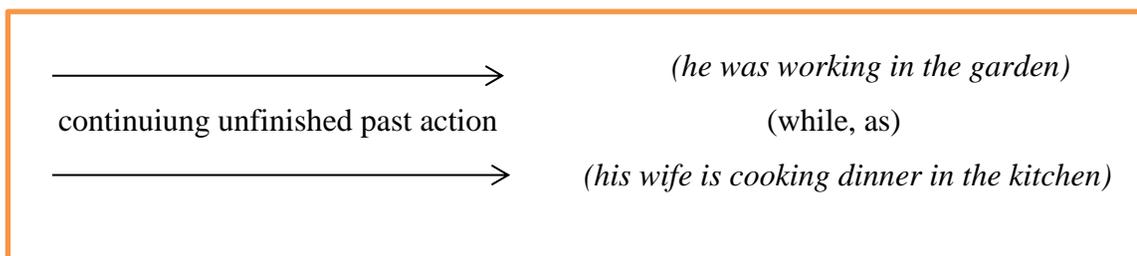
2. for a continuing unfinished action which was interrupted by a sudden past action.

*Ex. I was driving along the road when he called me.*



3. for two continuing events happening at the same time.

*Ex. He was working in the garden while his wife is cooking dinner in the kitchen.*



### Note

#### **while, when**

‘While and As’ is used with past continuous showing the time the event was happening

‘When’ is used with past simple for actions.

#### **Used to**

1. Use ‘used to’ when describing habits and states in the past that continued for months or years, and emphasizing that the situation today is different.

**Ex.** A lot of Thai people **used to** grow their own rice in the past.

(Nowadays people usually buy rice from a shop.)

My husband **used to** work at home.

(My husband doesn't work at home now.)

2. Use **'did'** + **'use to'** to make negative sentences and questions.

**Ex.** Paul **didn't use to** play chess.

Danny **didn't use to** smoke a pipe.

**Did** Alison **use to** walk to school?

**Did** your parents **use to** read you before going to bed?

**Exercise 1** Complete the sentences with the correct verb forms of past continuous.

1. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) when I left home this morning.
2. I tried to explain the situation to my boss, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not listen).
3. Tons of people \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for the last subway last night.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in New York when I met them.
5. The car \_\_\_\_\_ (come) towards me, fortunately I was quick enough to move out of its way.
6. Which taxi \_\_\_\_\_ (you / take) when you lost your wallet?
7. Luckily, he \_\_\_\_\_ (not / drive) too fast when the child ran into the road in front of my sedan.
8. What \_\_\_\_\_ (she / do) at three o'clock in the afternoon yesterday.
9. Sue \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book while Liz \_\_\_\_\_ (take) bath when I called them.
10. Alison \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to music very loud while Caroline \_\_\_\_\_ (draw) a picture.

**Exercise 2** Put the verbs into the past continuous or past simple.

1. A: Was Julie busy when you went to see her?  
B: Yes, she \_\_\_\_\_ (study).
2. A: What time \_\_\_\_\_ (the postman / arrive) this morning?  
B: He \_\_\_\_\_ (come) while I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) breakfast.

3. A: Was Thomson at work today?

B: So, he \_\_\_\_\_ (not / go) to work. He had a terrible headache.

4. A: How fast \_\_\_\_\_ (you / drive) when the police \_\_\_\_\_  
(stop) you?

B: I don't know exactly, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) that fast.

5. A: Was Thomson at work today?

B: So, he \_\_\_\_\_ (not / go) to work. He had a terrible headache.

6. A: \_\_\_\_\_ (you / win) the match yesterday?

B: Not exactly. It rained a lot so we \_\_\_\_\_ (not / play).

7. A: How \_\_\_\_\_ (you / break) the plate?

B: We \_\_\_\_\_ (wash) the dishes. I \_\_\_\_\_ (pick) it up  
and it accidentally \_\_\_\_\_ (fall).

8. A: \_\_\_\_\_ (you / see) Jenny last night?

B: Yes, she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in an elegant dress.

9. A: What \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) at three o'clock this morning?

B: I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in bed.

10. A: I \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) my mobile phone last night?

B: How \_\_\_\_\_ (you / call) your parents then?

A: I \_\_\_\_\_ (borrow) my friend's mobile.

**Exercise 3** Complete the sentence with the past simple or past continuous form of verb in brackets.

### Alexander the Great

a. While he \_\_\_\_\_ (grow up), the philosopher Aristotle was his teacher.

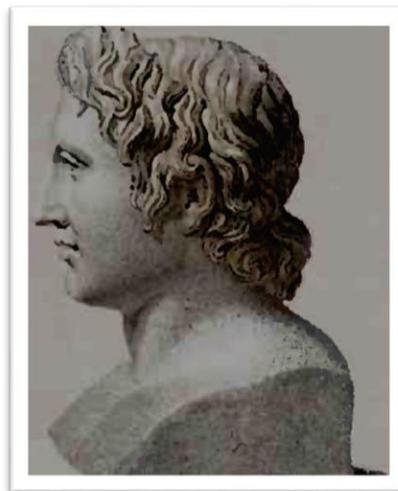
Alexander \_\_\_\_\_ (become) interested in science, medicine, philosophy and literature.

b. While his father Philip \_\_\_\_\_ (attend) his daughter's wedding, a young nobleman \_\_\_\_\_ (murder) him. Alexander was king of Macedonia at the age of 20.

c. While he \_\_\_\_\_ (fight) his enemies in the north, the Greek in the south \_\_\_\_\_ (start) a rebellion. He \_\_\_\_\_ (destroy) all

their cities.

d. He \_\_\_\_\_ (lead) his army against the Persian Empire through what is now Turkey. While he \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in the ancient city of Gordium, he \_\_\_\_\_ (undo) the Gordian knot. A legend said that only a future king of Asia could do this.



e. While his army \_\_\_\_\_ (march) through Persia, it \_\_\_\_\_ (defeat) Darius, the king of Persia.

f. He \_\_\_\_\_ (found) the city of Alexandria at the mouth of the Nile while he \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) Egypt.

g. While he \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) with his army, he \_\_\_\_\_ (give) his name to many other towns.

h. He \_\_\_\_\_ (kill) his friend Clitus in a quarrel, while they \_\_\_\_\_ (have) dinner.

i. While he \_\_\_\_\_ (attack) the city of Mali in India, he \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) a serious wound from an arrow.

j. While he \_\_\_\_\_ (attend) a banquet in Babylon in 323 BC, he \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) ill and \_\_\_\_\_ (die).

*Note.* From Macmillan English Grammar in Context (p.20), by V. Micheal, 2008, Oxford: Macmillan.

**Exercise 4** Complete the sentences with 'used to' and the verbs from the list.

eat    go    have (x2)    live    be (x2)    play (x2)    get up

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ volleyball. I stopped playing a few months ago.
2. Have you got a bicycle? - 'No, I \_\_\_\_\_ one but I sold it.'
3. Gary \_\_\_\_\_ a waiter in a restaurant, but he has his own café.
4. When I was a child I never \_\_\_\_\_ meat, but I eat it now.

5. My family \_\_\_\_\_ near the river, but we moved to the city center two years ago.
6. When I worked at the city hotel, I \_\_\_\_\_ very early to catch the first bus.
7. What game \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ when you were little?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ swimming every day when you were a swimmer?
9. His mother \_\_\_\_\_ long hair as I remembered.
10. This building \_\_\_\_\_ the highest in this area.

**Exercise 5** Complete the sentence with 'used to' + verb in brackets in positive, negative or question form.

1. What things \_\_\_\_\_ (be) different in the past??
2. For a start, all the continents \_\_\_\_\_ (form) one large land mass.
3. Obviously, there \_\_\_\_\_ (be) cities and buildings, and forest covered a third of the Earth.
4. The climate was different, and animals such as hippopotamus and rhinoceros \_\_\_\_\_ (exist)
5. Many mountains in Europe \_\_\_\_\_ (be) active volcanoes.
6. Early people \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in complex societies, but in small groups in places where there could find food.
7. What \_\_\_\_\_ (eat)? They \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) whatever they could find.
8. Early people \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in the same place, but \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) long distances, following the animals they needed for food.

*Note.* From Macmillan English Grammar in Context (p.21), by V. Micheal, 2008, Oxford: Macmillan.

## 2.3 Past Perfect Simple

### FORM

#### Affirmative

I You We They The teachers ( <i>A plural noun</i> )	had worked	at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.	before / by the time you were born.
He She It The teacher ( <i>A singular noun / An uncountable noun</i> )	had come		

#### Negative

I You We They The teachers ( <i>A plural noun</i> )	hadn't	the work	before / by the time you arrived.
He She It The teacher ( <i>A singular noun / An uncountable noun</i> )	finished		

**Yes/No Questions and short answers**

Questions				Short answers	
Had	I you we they the teachers <i>(A plural noun)</i>	visited	Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University?	Yes, you had	No, you hadn't
	he she it the teacher <i>(A singular noun / An uncountable noun)</i>			Yes, I had .	No, I hadn't .
				Yes, we had .	No, we hadn't .
				Yes, they had .	No, they hadn't .
				Yes, s/ he had .	No, s/ he hadn't .
				Yes, it had .	No, it hadn't .

**Wh-Questions and answers**

Questions			Answers		
Where	had	I you we they	been?	You'd I'd We'd They'd	been to Chiang Mai.



'realized' and 'knew' something.

*Ex. When Mary checked the answers in her paper, she realized she had made a mistake.*

4. Past Perfect Simple is used in reported speech.

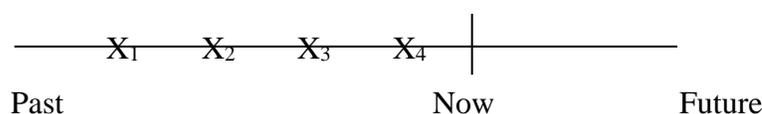
*Ex. "I have suffered from cancer for many years." (statement)*

*He told the doctor that he had suffered from cancer for many years. (reported speech)*

### Note

We use Past Simple when we talk about a series of events in the past in order.

*Ex. She saw a beautiful flower in her garden then she went to get her camera and took a photo. After that she went back to the house with a camera and a bunch of flowers.*



### **Past Simple vs. Past Perfect Simple**

- *When she returned with her camera, the bird flew away. (It went after she returned.)*
- *When she returned with her camera, the bird had flown away. (It went before she returned.)*

**Exercise 1** Complete the sentences using the Past Perfect Simple forms of the verbs in brackets.

1. We didn't watch the movie because we \_\_\_\_\_ (see) it before.
2. I couldn't buy the present for my mother because I \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) all my money.
3. They didn't know the answer because they \_\_\_\_\_ (not / do) the homework.
4. Our neighbors were so happy because they \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the lotto.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) my mobile phone so I had to borrow yours to call my dad.
6. When I went back to my office and checked my email. Several people \_\_\_\_\_ (send) me invitations via emails.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / hear) the story before so I cried my eyes out.
8. When we came out from the supermarket, we realized that our car \_\_\_\_\_ (be) stolen.
9. She couldn't see the board very well because she \_\_\_\_\_ (not / bring) her glasses.
10. The ground was still wet because it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) a lot for several hours.

**Exercise 2** David invited friends to his birthday party at his house. Here are the things he did and didn't do, before his friends arrived. Complete the phrases by using the Past Perfect Simple.

- He cleaned his house.
- He changed the curtain in the living room.
- He bought something to drink.
- He didn't buy the food.
- He took a bath.
- He got dressed.
- He started mixing some drinks.
- He didn't finish preparing the drinks.

*By the time David's friends arrived:*

1. \_\_\_ he had cleaned his house. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 3** Write the information in a complete sentence using the words in brackets.

1. (When John / come, the driver / already / start / the car)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. (We / call / the police / when / the thief / already / run away)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. (Jim / already / finish / his homework / when / the teacher / arrive)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. (I / never / be / to New York / when / I / be / eighteen.)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. (Our parents / already / leave / the house / when / the game / finish)

\_\_\_\_\_

6. (When his wife / get / home from work / Ian / already / prepare / their dinner)

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7. (The victim / be / murdered / before / the police / arrive / the crime scene)

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8. (The performance / begin / before / we / park / our car)

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9. (The firefighter / arrive / before / the alarm / ring)

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10. (When /she / have / a glass of water / she / feel / better)

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**Exercise 4** Complete the sentence with the Past Simple or Past Perfect Simple forms of verbs in brackets.

1. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to call my friend, I realized the battery \_\_\_\_\_ (run out).
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ (switch) off the lap top but he forgot he \_\_\_\_\_ (not save) his work.
3. I remembered I \_\_\_\_\_ (not pay) my telephone bill when the Internet connection \_\_\_\_\_ (stop).
4. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) the invitation via email, I didn't understand who \_\_\_\_\_ (invite) me to the party.
5. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (check) the manual, I understood I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) a big mistake.
6. As soon as I \_\_\_\_\_ (upload) the file, I realized my anti-virus program \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) working
7. I could see what \_\_\_\_\_ (go) wrong as soon as I \_\_\_\_\_ (look) into the computer case.
8. I knew I \_\_\_\_\_ (press) the wrong button when the file \_\_\_\_\_ (crash).
9. When the screen \_\_\_\_\_ (go) blank, I couldn't understand what I \_\_\_\_\_ (do) wrong.
10. I couldn't understand what \_\_\_\_\_ (occur) to my computer when I

\_\_\_\_\_ (try) to restart it.

**Exercise 5** Complete the sentence with the Past Simple or Past Perfect Simple forms of verbs in brackets.

When I (1)\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Hong Kong last spring for a job interview, I (2)\_\_\_\_\_ (not / be) there for many years. I (3)\_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) in the morning before the interview, and (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (spend) about an hour preparing for my interview and thinking about the good times I (5)\_\_\_\_\_ (have) there as an exchange student.

As I was walking along the beach, I suddenly (6)\_\_\_\_\_ (see) a familiar face - it was Elian, the girl I (7)\_\_\_\_\_ (share) a room with when I was a student there. I could tell she (8)\_\_\_\_\_ (not / see) me, so I (9)\_\_\_\_\_ (shout) out her name and she (10)\_\_\_\_\_ (look) at me. I realized that she (11)\_\_\_\_\_ (put) on a lot so that I couldn't recognize her. She (12)\_\_\_\_\_ (see) the shock in my eyes and (13)\_\_\_\_\_ (smile). She (14)\_\_\_\_\_ (explain) that she (15)\_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) eating too much when she was a sous chef in Paris. We then (16)\_\_\_\_\_ (have) a cup of coffee and (17)\_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to tell one another everything that (18)\_\_\_\_\_ (happen) to us in the past ten years.

**Exercise 6** Complete the sentence with the Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect Simple forms of verbs in brackets.

On 26 December 2004, Tilly Smith, a 10-year-old British schoolgirl, (1)\_\_\_\_\_ (walk) on the beach with her family. They (2)\_\_\_\_\_ (spend) Christmas in Thailand. Suddenly Tilly (3)\_\_\_\_\_ (feel) that something was wrong. She could see that the water (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (rise) and waves (5)\_\_\_\_\_ (come) up the beach. The beach (6)\_\_\_\_\_ (get) smaller and smaller. She (7)\_\_\_\_\_ (not / know) that there had been an earthquake in Sumatra that morning, but she (8)\_\_\_\_\_ (suddenly / remember) a geography lesson she (9)\_\_\_\_\_ (have) at school just two weeks before. So she (10)\_\_\_\_\_ (tell) her mother what she (11)\_\_\_\_\_ (learn) about earthquakes and giant waves. Luckily for the Smith family, Tilly's teacher Andrew Kearney (12)\_\_\_\_\_ (teach) the class about earthquakes and (13)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (show) them the video of a tsunami in Hawaii. Tilly (14) \_\_\_\_\_ (start) screaming at her parents to get off the beach. They (15) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) Tilly back to their hotel, which was not too close to the shore, and (16) \_\_\_\_\_ (raise) the alarm. One of the staff, who was Japanese, (17) \_\_\_\_\_ (understand) the word tsunami, and (18) \_\_\_\_\_ (order) everyone to leave the beach. From their room on the third floor, the Smiths (19) \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) the terrible effects of the tsunami on the area. Thanks to Tilly, everybody from that beach (20) \_\_\_\_\_ (survive) the terrible day.

*Note.* From Macmillan English Grammar in Context (p.30), by V. Micheal, 2008, Oxford: Macmillan.

## 2.4 Past Perfect Continuous

### FORM

#### Affirmative

I You We They The teachers (A plural noun)	had been working	at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.
He She It The teacher (A singular noun / An uncountable noun)		

**Negative**

I You We They The teachers ( <i>A plural noun</i> )	hadn't been doing	the project.
He She It The teacher ( <i>A singular noun / An uncountable noun</i> )		

**Yes/No Questions and short answers**

Questions				Short answers	
Had	I you we they the teachers ( <i>A plural noun</i> )	been waiting	for a bus?	Yes, you had. Yes, I had. Yes, we had. Yes, they had.	No, you hadn't. No, I hadn't. No, we hadn't. No, they hadn't.

he she it the teacher ( <i>A singular noun / An uncountable noun</i> )				Yes, s/ he had. Yes, it had.	No, s/ he hadn't . No, it hadn't .
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### Wh-Questions and answers

Questions			Answers		
Where What	had	I you we they the teachers ( <i>A plural noun</i> )	been waiting?	You'd I'd We'd They'd	been waiting for a bus.
		he she it the teacher ( <i>A singular noun / An uncountable noun</i> )		He'd She'd It'd	



to Japan for a degree?

9. I put on weight because I \_\_\_\_\_(eat) too much chocolate.  
 10. I \_\_\_\_\_(work) at this company for 6 months before I met her.

**Exercise 2** Complete the sentences using Past Perfect Continuous form of verbs in the list.

SITUATION: Mr. Graham, an English teacher, left the class room for half an hour to attend an urgent meeting. During that time, the students did whatever they wanted. When she came back, ....

1. He learned that a few students \_\_\_\_\_(talk) loudly.
2. He found out that a couple of students \_\_\_\_\_(use) mobile phones.
3. Someone told him that a student \_\_\_\_\_(listen) to music.
4. He heard that many students \_\_\_\_\_(dance) in the aisles.
5. He found out that one group of students \_\_\_\_\_(look) in his grade book.
6. He saw that a few students \_\_\_\_\_(draw) cartoons on the board.
7. He discovered that half of the students \_\_\_\_\_(study) the whole time.
8. He found out that one student \_\_\_\_\_(read) a comic book.
9. Another teacher told him that his class \_\_\_\_\_(make) loud noise.
10. He also found out that only one student \_\_\_\_\_(sleep).

**Exercise 3** Complete the sentences using Present Perfect Continuous or Past Perfect Continuous.

1. They \_\_\_\_\_(wait) for their teacher for the last two hours, but she still hasn't shown up.
2. They \_\_\_\_\_(wait) for their teacher for over two hours before she finally showed up ten minutes ago.
3. It is midnight. We \_\_\_\_\_(study) for several straight hours. It's certain why we are getting tired.
4. It was midnight. We \_\_\_\_\_(study) for six straight hours. No wonder we were getting tired.
5. Simon suddenly realized that the teacher was asking him a question. He didn't know the answer because he \_\_\_\_\_(daydream) for the last twenty minutes.
6. Listen! You \_\_\_\_\_(talk) long enough. It's time for me to speak.

7. Jane, take a break! You \_\_\_\_\_(work) like crazy for eight hours.
8. Why do your eyes look so tired? \_\_\_\_\_you \_\_\_\_\_(play)games for several hours again?
9. I \_\_\_\_\_(drive) in the wrong direction for an hour before I noticed my mistake.
10. I \_\_\_\_\_(say) it for years - young people should go back to school and work harder.

**Exercise 4** Read the sentences about two mountain climbers. Then complete the sentences with the Past Perfect Simple or Past Perfect Continuous form of the verb in brackets.

1. The two climbers stopped to rest. They \_\_\_\_\_(climb) for hours and were exhausted. They were not looking good.
2. They were very cold, because it \_\_\_\_\_(snow) heavily since mid-morning, and one of them \_\_\_\_\_(hurt) his ankle.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_(look) for shelter for the past two hours, because they realized that the weather was going to get worse.
4. They \_\_\_\_\_(already phone) the rescue center for help.
5. They \_\_\_\_\_(also leave) details of their planned route at the village where they stayed the night.
6. They were experienced climbers and they \_\_\_\_\_(prepare) carefully for their trip. They knew there was a cave halfway up the mountain.
7. They spent a long time searching for the cave before they realized that they \_\_\_\_\_(head) in the wrong direction. Then the snow stopped, and they could see the dark entrance of the cave nearby.
8. Luckily they \_\_\_\_\_(bring) warm clothes and plenty of food with them, and they waited safely in the cave.

*Note.* From Macmillan English Grammar in Context (p.31), by V. Micheal, 2008, Oxford: Macmillan.

## Test Yourself

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ (already eat) when Dad came home.
2. I opened the fridge to find that someone \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) all my milk.
3. As the policeman \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to the station, a car  
\_\_\_\_\_ (stop) behind him.
4. Last year Lucy \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) all her exams.
5. Lila was very glad to see that her husband \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the house.
6. We arrived in Bangkok at 3.30 and the sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine).
7. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (reach) the airport I discovered I had forgotten my  
raincoat.
8. While we \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to the radio, the telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
(ring).
9. When I got home I realized that while I \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) someone had stolen  
my purse!
10. We \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) for nearly 200 kilometers before we finally found a  
motel we could spend the night.
11. Some people \_\_\_\_\_ (sunbath) on the beach while others  
\_\_\_\_\_ (surf) near the harbor.
12. I opened my handbag to find that I \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) my keys.
13. She \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) for ten hours when I woke her.
14. I went to the library, then I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) some grocers and went home.
15. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) very hard and the road was covered in water.

## References