

## GRAMMAR

### WAYS TO SPEAK ABOUT THE PAST

#### THE BASICS

PAST SIMPLE	<i>I read a book yesterday.</i>	Вчера я <b>читал</b> книгу.	<b>Факт</b>
PAST CONTINUOUS	<i>I was reading a book when you called.</i>	Когда ты позвонил, я <b>читал</b> книгу.	<b>Процесс</b>
PAST PERFECT	<i>I realized I had read the book before.</i>	Я понял, что уже читал эту <b>книгу</b> .	<b>Предшествование</b>
PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS	<i>I had been reading the book for two days when he asked me to return it.</i>	Я <b>читал</b> книгу два дня, когда он попросил вернуть ее.	<b>Процесс + Предшествование</b>

#### THE PARTICULARS

##### PAST SIMPLE

Законченное действие или состояние*	<i>S. Maugham's first novel <b>appeared</b> in 1897.</i>  <i>Jane <b>worked</b> for the company for twenty years. She is retired now.</i>  <i>In the late 19th century, Great Britain <b>had</b> a lot of colonies.</i>	Первый роман С. Моэма <b>появился</b> в 1897 году.  Джейн <b>проработала</b> в этой компании двадцать лет. Сейчас она на пенсии.  В конце XIX века Великобритания <b>имела</b> много колоний.
Ряд последовательных действий	<i>They <b>finished</b> breakfast and <b>rose</b> from the table.</i>	Они <b>закончили</b> завтрак и <b>встали</b> из-за стола.
Регулярные или повторявшиеся действия	<i>He <b>travelled</b> to Paris twelve times a year.</i>	Он <b>ездил</b> в Париж двенадцать раз в год.

\* To describe **states** the following common verbs are used:

states of existence

*be, exist, consist of, contain*

mental states

*think, realize, know, suppose, understand, doubt, expect, agree, remember*

states of possessing

*have, belong, include, own, possess*

states of feeling or wanting

*like, love, dislike, despise, hate, prefer, want, wish*

states of perception

*hear, feel, smell, taste, sound, look, seem, appear*

The *state verbs* are NOT usually used in the **continuous** tenses.

#### TIME EXPRESSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAST SIMPLE

*at 10 o'clock, in the morning / evening, at night*  
*yesterday, the day before yesterday, the night before last*  
*yesterday morning / afternoon / evening*  
*last year / month / week / night*  
*in 1990, in the 50s, in the 20th century*  
*some years / months / days ago; the other day*

## Exercise 1. Group the sentences according to the use of the Past Simple:

- single completed action
- past action of some duration
- state
- repeated actions
- sequence of actions

1. I saw you on television last night.
2. At five o'clock they went to the restaurant car to have tea and chatted a little.
3. Benjamin Franklin served his country for fifty years as inventor, philosopher, statesman and diplomat.
4. Whenever I was in London I saw Ferdy.
5. Did you know much about her at that time?
6. John took up exercise when he was 16.
7. Breakfast consisted of porridge, half a cup of milk and a dry biscuit.
8. They had tea, they talked, and they drove home again.
9. They suffered for a long time due to the political instability in the country.
10. When did you last go out of the house?
11. Every year the Indians went far away, even one thousand miles, to hunt buffalo.
12. All his life Newton studied books on humanistic learning.
13. Everybody liked him for his kindness and generosity.
14. He reached inside his pocket and came out with a business card.
15. Every time the two little girls saw Colin they giggled.

## PAST CONTINUOUS

Действие в развитии в определенный момент или период в прошлом	<i>At eleven o'clock, I <b>was working</b> in the garden.</i>  <i><u>When I left school,*</u> they <b>were</b> <b>still arguing</b> about whether they should allow calculators in exams.</i>	В одиннадцать часов я <b>работал</b> в саду.  Когда я окончил школу, всё ещё <b>спорили</b> о том, следует ли разрешить пользоваться калькулятором на экзаменах.
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**Note:** The particular time or period of time in the past when a certain action was in progress can be indicated in the sentence with the help of another action expressed in the **Past Simple**.

## TIME EXPRESSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAST CONTINUOUS

*at that time / moment*  
*still*  
*at 8 o'clock, from five*  
*till seven*

## Exercise 2. Make up sentences according to the model.

**Model:** The war / start; he work / on a farm.

→ When the war started, he was working on a farm.

1. He / get home; his mother / watch children's cartoons.
2. They / arrive; Suzie / wait in the living room.
3. She / come back from the hospital; Marcus / still / sit at the kitchen table.
4. The Minister / return; a young stenographer / wait in his office.
5. The bell / ring; the students / still / sit in their seats.
6. The storm / break; he / write at his desk.
7. The lights / go out; they / surf the net.
8. The police / arrive; the young people / take things out of the shop.
9. Frank / open his eyes; she / study his face.
10. He / come to; they / throw cold water on him.

### PAST CONTINUOUS vs PAST SIMPLE

Uses	Past Continuous	Past Simple
Describes a longer action which serves as a "background" for another action*	<i>Sam <b>was shaving</b> when the telephone rang.</i>	—
Describes a shorter action which happened in the middle of the longer action	—	<i>Sam <b>was shaving</b> when the telephone <b>rang</b>.</i>
Describes parallel actions ( <i>while</i> )	<i>I <b>was laying</b> the table while she <b>was cooking</b> dinner. (emphasizes duration)</i>	<i>I <b>laid</b> the table while she <b>cooked</b>. (states a fact)</i>
Describes two actions that develop or change together ( <i>as — no мере можно как</i> )	—	<i>As demand <b>grew</b>, prices <b>rose</b>, what had cost £ 5 now cost £ 10.</i>
With time expressions such as <i>all day long, all that year, the whole morning, etc.</i>	<i>All that year he <b>was studying</b> hard for his final exam. (emphasizes that the activity was happening at every moment during the specified period)</i>	<i>I <b>studied</b> hard all weekend for a tough Physics test. (states a fact)</i>
Describes a completed activity	—	<i>I <b>did</b> a crossword puzzle while waiting. (решил)</i>
Describes an action in progress, at some time between its beginning and its end	<i>I <b>was doing</b> a crossword puzzle while waiting. (пешал)</i>	—



#### Note:

\* The "background" action can be introduced by *when, (just) as, while*:

*Just as they **were leaving** (background) she **noticed** (main action) some friends from school.*

*While they **were having dinner** (background) I **went** (main action) over to their table to chat.*

#### Note:

Remember that the conjunction *as* can introduce a clause with a verb:

- in the **Past Simple** to describe two actions that develop or change together
- in the **Past Continuous** to describe a "background" action.

### Exercise 3. Put the verbs in brackets in the appropriate tense form.

1. The family feared the worst. As the weeks (go) by Victor (grow) weaker.
2. As he (leave) the hotel he (pause) abruptly in the entrance.
3. As I (recover), Hannah, the housekeeper, (come) to sit with me, and (tell) me all about the family.
4. As she (become) more irritated with herself, she (become) sharper (резкий) with her companion.
5. The argument was continuous and as it (develop) both sides (change) their position.
6. As she (grow) older her school-friends sometimes (express) envy at her adventurous lifestyle.
7. As years (pass) his enthusiasm for stamp collecting (increase).
8. Just as we (wait) for the lift, Elsie Ferguson (come) hurrying down the stairs.
9. As London (grow), its citizens (want) more freedom and less taxation.
10. As industry (grow), more and more water was needed for heating and cooling.

### PAST PERFECT

<p>Действие или ряд действий, которые совершились:</p> <p>1. раньше другого действия в прошлом, выраженного формой <u>Past Simple</u></p> <p>2. к определённом моменту в прошлом</p>	<p><i>When I <u>called</u>, he <u>had</u> already left.</i></p> <p><i>Yesterday I <u>met</u> Jane. Since we <u>left</u> school*, we <u>had</u> often written to each other.</i></p> <p><i>By <u>June</u> (that time, etc.) I <u>had</u> completed the research.</i></p>	<p>Когда я <u>позвонил</u>, он уже <u>ушел</u>.</p> <p>Вчера я <u>встретил</u> Джейн. С тех пор, как мы окончили школу, мы часто <u>писали</u> друг другу.</p> <p>К <u>июню</u> (к тому времени и т.д.) я уже <u>закончил</u> это исследование.</p>
<p>Состояние, длившееся некоторое время до определенного момента или другого действия в прошлом**</p>	<p><i>The call didn't surprise him. He <u>had known</u> Laurie for more than four years as a colleague.</i></p>	<p>Её звонок не удивил его. Он <u>знал</u> Лори более четырех лет по совместной работе.</p>
<p>В предложениях с союзами <i>hardly / scarcely ... when; no sooner ... than</i></p> 	<p><i>He <u>had</u> <u>hardly / scarcely</u> begun his speech <u>when</u> he was interrupted.</i></p> <p><i>We <u>had</u> <u>no sooner</u> driven a mile <u>than</u> the car <u>broke</u> down.</i></p>	<p>Едва он <u>начал</u> говорить, как его прервали.</p> <p>Не успели мы <u>проехать</u> и мили, как машина сломалась.</p>



#### Notes:

- \* In time clauses introduced by *since* the **Past Simple** is commonly used though the **Past Perfect** is quite possible.
- \*\* See the list of state verbs at the beginning of the unit.

### TIME EXPRESSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAST PERFECT

*by the time / before / after / when*  
*since + a point of time (since 1910, since he came)*  
*for + a period of time (for 5 years, for over an hour)*  
*how long*  
*already, just, never*



**Exercise 4. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense form.**

**Model:** It was the second time in three weeks (that) the police (visit) him.

→ It was the second time in three weeks ( that) the police had visited him.

1. It was the third time that year he (fall) asleep driving at night.
2. This was only the fourth time in my life that I (taste) caviar.
3. It was the first time in his 75 years that he ever (be) a hospital patient.
4. It was the first time he (speak) her name and it sounded good.
5. It was the fourth time in three months that the car (break down).

**Exercise 5. Complete the sentences using the correct tense form of the verb and the right word.**

1. We hardly (go) half the way \_\_\_\_\_ it started to rain and we had to run.
2. He scarcely (finish) his remark \_\_\_\_\_ there was a storm of applause.
3. Food was a joy to them, and they no sooner (finish) one meal \_\_\_\_\_ they were enthusiastically discussing the next.
4. She hardly (take) a couple of steps \_\_\_\_\_ she was surrounded by her fans.
5. He no sooner (put) the phone down \_\_\_\_\_ there was a knock on the door.

**PAST PERFECT vs PAST SIMPLE**

Uses	Past Perfect	Past Simple
<b>Makes a sequence of events clear</b>	<b>Describes the earlier action</b>  <i>When we reached the airport, the plane <b>had taken off</b>.</i>  <i>Sequence:</i> 1. The plane took off. 2. We reached the airport.	<b>Describes past events in the order they happened</b>  <i>When we <b>reached</b> the airport, the plane <b>took off</b>.</i>  <i>Sequence:</i> 1. We reached the airport. 2. The plane took off.
<b>In time clauses after when, after, as soon as</b>	Shows that the second action took place <u>only after</u> the first one was completed  <i>After he <b>had given</b> the police his name and address, he was allowed to go.</i>	  <i>Soon after he <b>returned</b> to Japan he began to write a textbook.</i>

**Exercise 6. Put the verbs in brackets in the Past Simple or the Past Perfect.**

1. At the end of the war he (retire) and (settle) down to the life of a country gentleman.
2. When they (decide) to separate, they (be) married for four years, and they (not be) very happy.
3. By the end of the 19th century it (become) clear that England (be) no longer as powerful as it (be) earlier.
4. The Anglo-Norman aristocracy (speak) French among themselves and (write) to each other in that language long after they (come) to regard themselves as Englishmen.
5. By the late 1500s, a great demand for fur (develop) in Europe. This demand (encourage) further exploration of North America.
6. When Oliver Cromwell (come) to power he (forbid) people to celebrate Christmas and Easter, or to play games on a Sunday.
7. By 1714 the Stuarts (be) kings and queens of Scotland and England for over 300 years.
8. In 1648, the Cossack Semyon Ivanovitch Dezhnev (conduct) a first expedition which (go) around the point (мыс) of Siberia and (prove) that the two continents were separate.
9. He (get) home in time for dinner, and after Evie (go) to bed he (go) into his study and (look) for his diary.
10. When Margaret Thatcher (resign) in 1991, she (serve) as prime minister for twelve years.

## PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Действие, которое продолжалось в течение некоторого времени вплоть до определенного момента в прошлом	<i>They <b>had been walking for over an hour</b> when it <b>began</b> to rain.</i>	Они <b>шли</b> <u>более часа</u> , когда <b>начался</b> дождь.
Действие, которое продолжалось в течение некоторого времени и закончилось незадолго до определенного момента в прошлом	<i>Her eyes <b>were red</b>, he could tell that she <b>had been crying</b>.</i>	Глаза у нее <b>покраснели</b> , он понял, что она <b>плакала</b> .

## TIME EXPRESSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

*for + a period of time (for a long time, for the last / past few days, etc.)*  
*since + a point of time*  
*(since that time, since 1991, since last April, since he came, etc.)*  
*all day, all one's life*  
*how long*

## PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS vs PAST PERFECT

Uses	Past Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect
With verbs denoting continuous, uninterrupted processes such as <i>learn, live, rain, sleep, sit, snow, stand, study, teach, wait, work, etc.</i> to describe an action or situation which continued up to a particular past time, or stopped just before it	<i>Paul <b>had been waiting</b> for over an hour when he decided to leave. (emphasizes the duration of the waiting)</i>	<i>Paul <b>had waited</b> for over an hour when he decided to leave.</i>
With state verbs	—	<i>They <b>had known</b> each other for six years before they got married.</i>
Negative sentences	not common	<i>It was clear that she <b>hadn't cleaned</b> the house for the last few weeks.</i>
When you mention <u>the number of times</u> something was done	—	<i>I <b>had tried</b> <u>three times</u> to get her on the phone. She <b>had visited</b> him <u>twice</u> before he got well.</i>
Completed actions	Doesn't tell whether the action was completed or not  <i>He <b>had been packing</b> his suitcase for the last two hours. (упаковывал)</i>	Describes a completed action  <i>By six o'clock he <b>had packed</b> his suitcase. (упаковал)</i>

**Exercise 7. Fill in the gaps with the Past Perfect or the Past Perfect Continuous. In some sentences either can be used.**

1. It \_\_\_\_\_ (snow) in the night and so the ground was covered with a blanket of snow.
2. Rumours \_\_\_\_\_ (go) round all winter about the real reasons for his resignation.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ (live) at Riverstone for two months before the first invitation came.
4. Tom \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) all day, so he felt that he needed some rest.
5. The Potters \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) five kilometres by the time they found a suitable place for a permanent shelter.
6. The young couple \_\_\_\_\_ (save up) all year because they wanted to go on holiday.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) with him twice before I realised who the man was.
8. How long you \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) glasses before you had an eye operation?
9. Morgan finally (earn) \_\_\_\_\_ enough money to start his own business.
10. She admitted she \_\_\_\_\_ (like) Sam for a long time.

#### PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS vs PAST CONTINUOUS

The Past Perfect Continuous shows that the action had been going on for some time before a particular past moment.	The Past Continuous emphasizes that the action was in progress at that past moment.
<i>His shoes were full of mud. It was clear that he <b>had been digging</b> in the garden.</i>	<i>She couldn't answer the phone because she <b>was digging</b> in the garden.</i>

**Exercise 8. Put the verbs in brackets in the Past Perfect, the Past Continuous or the Past Perfect Continuous.**

1. I (intend) to spend last night at home, but I got a phone call around 7 o'clock from my old buddy Chris.
2. When I met Susan, she (live) with the Wilsons for nearly three months.
3. When Alex opened his eyes again, Robert (sit) by his side.
4. Whoever they (follow) for the past hour was gone.
5. Miranda guessed he (not live) in London long.
6. By the time Jack arrived at the office, he (have) two long arguments with taxi drivers.
7. Just as they (fall) off to sleep the door opened and there was Ronnie.
8. She (wear) the uniform for over ten years and she still hated putting it on in the morning.
9. When the phone rang, they (sit) there for over an hour watching television.
10. By 1968, the war in Vietnam (divide) the country and (destroy) President Johnson.

#### THE USE OF TENSES WITH BY THE TIME ... EXPRESSIONS

Remember that after time expressions such as *by that time*, *by the end of the week*, *by the time* + subject + Past Simple any of the past tenses (**the Past Simple, the Past Continuous, the Past Perfect, or the Past Perfect Continuous**) can be used

Tense	Use	Examples
Past Simple	state	<i>By that time, he knew he <b>wanted</b> to be a geologist.</i>
Past Continuous	action in progress	<i>By the time he put the key into the lock, his heart <b>was thumping</b> in his chest.</i>
Past Perfect	completed action	<i>By the time he reached his hotel, Craig <b>had caught</b> a chill.</i>
Past Perfect Continuous	action which had been going on for some time	<i>By the time he reached harbour, he <b>had been sailing</b> for two nights without sleep.</i>