

ENGLISH- INTERMEDIATE

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3

Good times, bad times

Past tenses • Spelling and pronunciation • Giving opinions

Lecture 6



STARTER

Play the *Fortunately, Unfortunately* game around the class.

Start: *I woke up very early this morning.*

Student A *Fortunately, it was a lovely day.*

Student B *Unfortunately, I had to go to school.*

Pronunciation

- 4** **T 3.3** Listen and repeat the weak forms and contracted forms.

/wəz/

What was he doing?

/wəz/

He was studying.

/wə/

They were working ...

/hɪd/

He'd had an argument.

/ðeɪd/

They'd met in Paris.

/hɪd bɪn/

He'd been drinking.



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5 Write the verbs from the box in the chart according to the pronunciation of *-ed*.

~~worked~~ dismissed tried rejected
 quarrelled moved completed
 continued died published recognized

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
<p>worked</p> <p>dismissed</p> <p>published</p>	<p>tried quarrelled</p> <p>moved Continued</p> <p>died recognized</p>	<p>rejected completed</p>



A newspaper story

- 4 Read the newspaper article. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct past tense, active or passive.

T 3.6 Listen and check.

SMASH!

Clumsy visitor destroys
priceless vases By Tom Ball

A **CLUMSY** visitor to a British museum has destroyed a set of priceless 300-year-old Chinese vases after slipping on the stairs.



The three vases, which (1) **Were produced** during the Qing dynasty in the 17th century, (2) **Had stood** on the windowsill at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge for forty years. Last Thursday they (3) **Were smashed** into a million pieces. The vases, which (4) **had been donated** (donate) in 1948, (5) **were** the museum's best-known pieces.

The Fitzwilliam (6) **decided** not to identify the man who (7) **Had caused** the disaster. 'It was a most unfortunate and regrettable accident,' museum director Duncan Robinson said, 'but we are glad that the visitor (8) **wasn't** seriously **injured**.'

The photograph of the accident (9) **was taken** by another visitor, Steve Baxter. 'We (10) **watched** the man fall as if in slow motion. He (11) **was flying** through the air. The vases (12) **exploded** as though they (13) **Had been hit** by a bomb. The man (14) **Was sitting** there stunned in the middle of a pile of porcelain when the staff (15) **arrived**.'

The museum declined to say what the vases were worth.



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Dynasty سلالة

Windowsill حافة النافذة

Regrettable مؤسف

Stunned مذهول

declined to say رفض أن يقول

- 1 **T 3.9** Listen and repeat these words. What do they tell you about English spelling and pronunciation?

good /gʊd/ food /fu:d/ blood /blʌd/
road /rəʊd/ rode /rəʊd/ rowed /rəʊd/

T 3.10 Words that sound the same



hw4e_int_sbu03-10.mp3

knew/new read/red wore/war threw/through
flew/'flu

- 3 Read these words aloud. Write another word with the same pronunciation.

1	male	<u>mail</u>	6	week	<u>weak</u>
2	blew	<u>blue</u>	7	hole	<u>hall</u>
3	piece	<u>peace</u>	8	pair	<u>pare</u>
4	where	<u>were</u>	9	allowed	<u>aloud</u>
5	caught	<u>coat</u>	10	weight	<u>wait</u>

fit	fit	fit
fly	flew	flown
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	got
give	gave	given
go	went	been/go
grow	grew	grown
hang	hanged/hung	hanged/
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt	knelt
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
learn	learned/learnt	learned/learnt

Past Simple and time expressions

Look at the time expressions that are common with the Past Simple.

I met her

last night.
two days ago.
yesterday morning.
in 2001.
in summer.
when I was young.

3.3 Past Continuous

Form

was/were + verb + -ing

I was learning French.

They were driving to Paris.

We weren't waiting for a long time.

What were they doing?

Where was he studying?

Short answer

Were you looking for me?

Yes, I was./No, I wasn't.

Were they waiting outside?

Yes, they were./No, they weren't.

Use

The Past Continuous is used:

- 1 to express activities in progress before, and probably after, a particular time in the past.

At seven o'clock this morning I was having my breakfast.

You made a lot of noise last night. What were you doing?

- 2 for descriptions.

Jan looked beautiful. She was wearing a green cotton dress. Her eyes were shining in the light of the candles that were burning nearby.

- 3 to express an interrupted past activity.

When the phone rang, I was having a shower.

While we were playing tennis, it started to rain.

- 4 to express an incomplete activity.

I was reading a book during the flight. (I didn't finish it.)

I watched a film during the flight. (the whole film)

3.4 Past Simple or Past Continuous?

- 1 Sometimes both tenses are possible. The Past Simple focuses on past actions as complete facts. The Past Continuous focuses on the duration of past activities. Compare:
 - A *I didn't see you at the party last night.*
 - B *No. I **stayed** at home and **watched** the football.*
 - A *I didn't see you at the party last night.*
 - B *No, I **was watching** the football at home.*
- 2 Questions in the Past Simple and Past Continuous refer to different time periods. The Past Continuous asks about activities before; the Past Simple asks about what happened after.
 - A *What **were** you **doing** when the accident happened?*
 - B *I **was shopping**.*
 - A *What **did** you **do** when you saw the accident?*
 - B *I **phoned** the police.*

3.5 *used to*

Used to expresses a habit or state in the past that is now finished.

*I **used to** read comics when I was a kid.* (but I don't now)

*My dad and I **used to** play football together.* (but we don't now)

***Did you use to** read comics when you were a child?*

*This town **didn't use to** be a nice place to live, but then it changed.*

3.6 Past Perfect

Perfect means 'completed before'. The Past Perfect refers to an action in the past that was completed before another action in the past.

Form

The form of the Past Perfect is the same for all persons.

Positive and negative

I	'd (had)	seen him before.
You	hadn't	finished work at six o'clock.
We		

Question

Where had	you she they	been before?
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3.7 Past tenses in the passive

Form

Past Simple Passive: *was/were* + past participle

*The museum **was opened** in 1987.*

*We **were burgled** last night.*

Past Continuous Passive: *was/were being* + past participle

*The vase **was being restored**.*

Past Perfect Passive: *had been* + past participle

*The house **had been redecorated**.*

Use

The uses are the same in the passive as in the active.

*The bridge **was built** in 1876.* (finished action in the past)

*The bomb **was being defused** when it exploded.* (interrupted past activity)

*The letter didn't arrive because it **had been sent** to my old address.*

(one action before another action in the past)

GRAMMAR SPOT

1 In these sentences, which verb form is . . . ?

Past Simple Past Continuous Past Simple passive

He **worked** as an art dealer.

He **was dismissed**.

He **was studying** art.

Find more examples of the three verb forms in the text.

2 In this sentence, what happened first?

He **was dismissed** because he **had argued** with customers.

had argued is an example of the Past Perfect tense.

How is this tense formed? Find more examples in the text.

3 Look at the sentence.

Vincent **used to** drink heavily.

Do you think this happened once or many times?

Find another example of *used to* in the text.

▶▶ **Grammar Reference 3.1–3.7 p135–7**

PRACTICE



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I didn't do much

1 **T 3.5** Listen to four people saying what they did last night. Who said these lines? Write a number 1–4.

2 I went for a drink with a couple of friends.

4 We talked for a bit.

1 I didn't do much.

2 I got home about nine.

1 I had an early night.

3 I didn't get home till about midnight.

4 I did some stuff on the computer.

3 Quite a late night for me!

Discussing grammar

3 Compare the use of tenses in these sentences. Say which tense is used and why.

- 1 It | *rained* all day yesterday. **Past Simple**
| *was raining* when I woke up. **Past Continuous**
- 2 I *wore* a suit for my interview. **Past Simple**
She looked great. She *was wearing* a black top and **Past Continuous**
tight jeans.
- 3 ‘What *were* you *doing* when you lost your phone?’ **Past Continuous**
‘Shopping.’
‘What *did* you *do* when you lost your phone?’ **Past simple passive**
‘Bought a new one.’
- 4 When Bill arrived, | we *were having* lunch. **Past continuous passive**
| we *had* lunch. **Past Perfect**
| we’d *had* lunch. **Past Perfect**
- 5 I got to the cinema. The film | *started*. **Past Simple**
| *had started*. **Past Perfect Simple**
- 6 When I was a kid I *used to play* football with my dad. **Past Simple**
I *played* football with my kids last Saturday. **Past Simple**

