

Past Tense

Hello and welcome back, in this lesson we will be exploring the past tense. Looking back we can see that there are a number of different ways of referring to the past in English. It is important to remember that we are expressing more than simply the time of the action or event.



The past tense in English is used:

- to talk about the **past**
- to talk about **hypotheses** – things that are imagined rather than true.
- for **politeness**.

The past tenses

There are four past tenses in English. Use them to talk about things that started and ended in the past or things that started in the past and continue to the present.

- Simple Past for actions starting and ending in the past.
- Past Continuous for actions starting in the past and continuing to the present.
- Past Perfect for actions that started and ended in the past before another action that is also in the past.
- Past Perfect Continuous for actions that were going on in the past up until another action in the past happened.



There are **four** past tense forms in English:

Tense	Form
Past simple:	I worked
Past continuous:	I was working
Past perfect:	I had worked
Past perfect continuous:	I had been working

Uses:

To talk about the **past**:

He **worked** at a restaurant.



He **was working** at the restaurant.



He **had worked** there since July.

CALENDAR						
JULY 2017						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

He **had been working** since July.

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To refer to the **present** or **future** in **conditions**:

He could get a new job if he really **tried**.



If Jack **was playing** they would probably win.



Hypotheses:

It might be dangerous.
Suppose they **got** lost.



I would always help someone who
really **needed** help.



Wishes:

I wish it **wasn't** so cold.



In **conditions**, **hypotheses** and **wishes**, if we want to talk about the **past**, we always use the **past perfect**:

I would have helped him if he **had asked**.



It was very dangerous,
What if you **had got** lost?



I wish I **hadn't spent** so much money last month.



Use the past to talk about the present

We can use the past forms to talk about the **present** in a few **polite expressions**:

Excuse me, I **was wondering** if this **was** the train for York.



I just **hoped** you **would** be able to help me.

