**PAST SIMPLE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I workedyou workedhe workedshe workedit workedwe workedyou workedthey worked | Did I work?Did you work?Did he work?Did she work?Did it work?Did we work?Did you work?Did they work? | I didn’t workyou didn’t workhe didn’t workshe didn’t workit didn’t workwe didn’t workyou didn’t workthey didn’t work |

**Use**

* The main use of the past simple is for finished actions in the past. For example:
* I *was* born in San Francisco. I *cleaned* my room. I *forgot* my key.

* We can use it with a finished time phrase like in the sentences below:
* *Yesterday* I went to the supermarket. *Last night* we watched the football.
* The phone rang *five minutes ago*.

* Other common time expressions you can use are:

*last month, last week, last summer, in 1997, when I was a child, a long time ago, on Monday, in February etc.*

* We also use the past simple for the main action when telling a story.

E.g. I *woke up* on my wedding day, I *jumped* out of bed and immediately *called* my brother. He *didn’t pick up* and so I *began* to worry.

**PAST CONTINUOUS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I was workingYou were workinghe was working she was working it was workingwe were workingyou were workingthey were working | Was I working?Were you working?Was he working?Was she working?Was it working?Were we working?Were you working?Were they working? | I wasn’t workingyou weren’t workinghe wasn’t workingshe wasn’t workingit wasn’t workingwe weren’t workingyou weren’t workingthey weren’t working |

**Use**

* to show that a longer action was interrupted (usually by a shorter action in the past simple). We often use the time expression *when*. For example:
* I was *swimming* in the sea when I saw a shark.
* Henry was *sitting* at home when the phone rang.
*

* When two continuous actions are happening at the same time we use the time expression while.
* I *was talking* to Sarah while she *was driving*.
* We *were playing* while dad *was cooking* dinner.

* We can also use it to show a continuous action happening at a specific time in the past.
* Yesterday morning *I was practising* the piano.
* At 6 o’clock *I was eating* dinner.
* What *were you doing* at 8pm last night?

Finally, it can be used to add some description to a story.

E.g. It was a beautiful day. The sun *was shining* and the birds *were singing*. We *were walking* around our favourite park.

**PAST PERFECT SIMPLE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I had worked you had workedhe had workedshe had workedit had workedwe had workedyou had workedthey had worked | Had I worked?Had you worked?Had he worked?Had she worked?Had it worked?Had we worked?Had you worked?Had they worked? |  I hadn’t workedyou hadn’t workedhe hadn’t workedshe hadn’t workedit hadn’t workedwe hadn’t workedyou hadn’t workedthey hadn’t worked |

## ****Use****

* We use it when one action happens before another past action. For example:

A. The film had started when we arrived. (the film started before we arrived)

B. The film started when we arrived (we arrived at the same time the film started)

* We use time expressions such as before, by the time and when.

Be careful lots of students overuse the past perfect! Remember you only use it for actions that happened before the main action.

**PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I had been workingyou had been workinghe had been workingshe had been workingit had been workingwe had been workingyou had been workingthey had been working | Had I been working?Had you been working?Had he been working?Had she been working?Had it been working?Had we been working?Had you been working?Had they been working? | I hadn’t been workingyou hadn’t been workinghe hadn’t been workingshe hadn’t been workingit hadn’t been workingwe hadn’t been workingyou hadn’t been workingthey hadn’t been working |

**Use**

* We use it to show that an action which started in the past continued up to another point in the past. For example:
* She *had been living* in Italy for three years when she lost her job.
* I *had been waiting* for ten minutes before the bus came.
* By the time Steve arrived I *had been working* for nearly eight hours!

* With the past perfect we use time expressions such as for five hours, for 2 weeks, for a long time, by the time.We can also use it to talk about the cause of something in the past. E.g.
* Susan was sweating because she *had been running*.
* Henry was late because he *had been studying*.