

13 The Past Tense



THINK

List any five activities that you did yesterday.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Creative Thinking



Life Skills and Values

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Simple Past Tense

The sentences you have written are in the **simple past tense**. As the name suggests, this tense tells us about actions that began in the past and ended in the past.

- Usually, we add **-ed** or **-d** to form the past tense.

watch-watched cook-cooked play-played move-moved

- Sometimes, we **double the last consonant** and add **-ed** or **-d** to form the past tense.

skip-skipped drop-dropped beg-begged fit-fitted

- Some verbs change completely in their past form.

see-saw tell-told win-won eat-ate

- Some verbs do not change at all in their past form.

spread-spread hit-hit quit-quit hurt-hurt

PRACTISE

A. Tanuja visited Darjeeling recently. Help her pen down her feelings by completing the sentences in the simple past tense.



Dear Diary

It has been long since we talked. This is because I, along with my parents and my sister, went (go) to Darjeeling last week. We reached (reach) New Jalpaiguri by train and then hired (hire) a cab to reach Darjeeling. The landscape was (is) breathtaking. As the car moved (move) higher on the winding road, the scenery became (become) splendid. Our hotel was (be) on top of a hill. We saw (see) green pines and snow-capped mountains. We ate (eat) thukpa and other delicacies. I brought (buy) gifts for everyone. We had (have) a great time there.

Tanuja

B. Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.



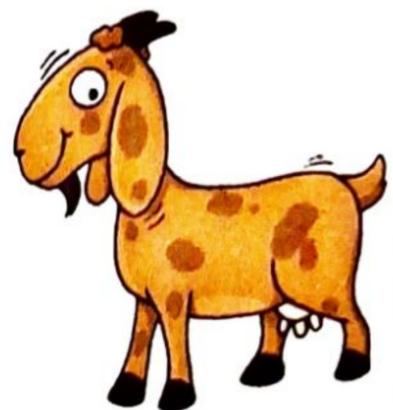
1. Ramana found (find) out that her student was also an artist.
2. I hugged (hug) my mother lovingly.
3. We met (meet) an old friend on the way to the market yesterday.
4. My sister rode (ride) a horse in Shimla.
5. The naughty girls rang (ring) the doorbell and ran (run) away.
6. Mohit fed (feed) his pet an hour ago.



C. Complete the story using the simple past forms of the verbs given in the brackets.



One day, Goaty ate (eat) vegetables growing in Mr Wolf's garden. He ate too much and started (start) feeling sick. He went (go) looking for some water. He was (be) nearly caught by the owner. He ran (run) for his life, but Mr Wolf caught (catch) him using a trap. A sparrow helped (help) Goaty and freed (free) him from the net. Goaty was (be) thankful to the sparrow.



D. Tick (✓) the sentences that refer to the actions happening now.

1. Mr Mehra was paying the bill.
2. The gardener is watering the plants.
3. Jigisha was playing hockey.
4. I was learning Spanish.
5. The manager is preparing a presentation.
6. The children are watching television.



The sentences you have ticked are in present continuous tense.

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Past Continuous Tense

The sentences you have not ticked are in the **past continuous tense**. This tense is used to express an action that continued over a period of time in the past.

The **past continuous tense** requires the use of the helping verbs, **was** and **were**, and the **-ing form** of verbs.

with singular nouns and pronouns	was + -ing form of verb	The dog was running. The chef was baking a cake.
with plural nouns and pronouns	were + -ing form of verb	The dogs were running. The chefs were baking a cake.
with you	were + -ing form of verb	You were baking a cake.

PRACTISE

E. Choose the correct options to complete these sentences.

1. My mother was working / were working as an editor a few years ago.
2. I was cleaning / were cleaning my room yesterday.
3. You was reading / were reading a book when I came.
4. The tourists was taking in / were taking in the scenic beauty of the place, when a truck whooshed past.



5. The children ~~were playing~~ was playing kabaddi this morning.
6. No one ~~were listening~~ was listening to the speech during the rehearsal.
- F. Jina went to Kausani for a trek last month. Help her describe the beautiful scene by filling the blanks with the simple past or past continuous tense forms of the verbs given in the brackets.

As I went (go) up the winding roads, I was amazed at the beautiful scenery surrounding me. The trees were (be) white with snow and the mountains in the distance looked (look) splendid. I was surprised to find flowers blooming in such an extreme cold! Some birds chirped (chirp) high up in the blue sky and a herd of mountain goats grazed (graze) on the slopes. It became (become) colder and darker as the sun set. At last, with a heavy heart, I headed back to our hotel.

- G. Make sentences in the past continuous tense using the given words.

1. Nakul/iron/clothes/yesterday afternoon

Nakul was ironing clothes yesterday afternoon.

2. children/participate/art competition/on Friday evening

The children were participating in the art competition on last Friday evening.

3. Jane/do/homework/8 p.m. yesterday

Jane was doing homework at 8:00 p.m. yesterday.

4. guard/blow/whistle/loudly this morning

The guard was blowing whistle loudly this morning.

5. you/organise/books/shelf/when I left

You were organizing books in the bookshelf when I left!

- H. Rewrite these sentences in the past continuous tense.

1. The guide **took us** around the monument.

The guide was taking us around the monument.

2. He **told us** about its historical importance.

He was telling us about its historical importance.



3. We **looked** at the inscriptions on the wall.

~~We were looking at the inscriptions on the wall.~~

4. Souvenir shops around the monument **sold** antiques.

~~Souvenir shops around the monument were selling antiques.~~

5. We **bought** gifts for our family members.

~~We were buying gifts for our family members.~~

6. Vendors outside the fort **offered** the regional delicacies.

~~Vendors outside the fort were offering the regional delicacies.~~

PLAY

Rahab
29/01/26



It is time for Just a Minute! You have to come forward and talk for a minute about any incident/event/achievement using the simple past tense. You can talk about the time, people involved, place, etc.



I attended a summer camp during the summer break. I learned how to play the piano. One of my friends and I used to attend the classes. We still practise together.