University Centre Abdelhafid Boussouf E-learning Centre

English – MA.2

Lesson One:

Past simple/continuous/perfect

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Students Concerned- Semester 1			
Institute	Department	Year	Specialty
Economic Science	Economic & Commercial Science	Master Two	• All specialties

Objectives of the lesson:

➢ The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint students with three distinct types of past tense, as well as their appropriate application in the English language.

Past simple

We use the past tense to talk about:

1. Something that happened once in <u>the past</u>: I graduated in <u>2010</u>.

2. Something that happened <u>several times</u> in the past: When I was a kid, I played football <u>every day</u>.

3. Something that was true for <u>some time in the past</u>: I lived abroad for <u>ten years</u>.

4. We often use expressions with <u>ago</u> with the past simple: I stopped smoking a long time <u>ago</u>.

Form: SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT

- With most verbs, the past tense is formed by adding **–ed.** E.g.: called (call), liked (like), wanted (want), worked (work)

- But there are a lot of irregular past tense forms in English: red (read), ate (eat)

- We use **"did"** to make questions with the past simple: **Did** she sleep?

- But questions with **"who"** often <u>don't use</u> **"did":** Who stole my money?

- We use **didn't** (did not) to make negatives with the past simple: They **didn't** win the championship this year

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Past Continuous

We use the past continuous to talk about:

1. Description of conditions that existed in the past: The sun **was shining** every day that summer.

2. Something that was happening continuously in the past when another action interrupted it: we **were making** dinner when she arrived.

3. Something was happening at a precise time in the past: At 6 o'clock, I **was eating** dinner.

4. A habitual action in the past: They **were talking** constantly in class in those days.

Form: SUBJECT + (Was / were) + VERB-ing.

- The verbs in the past continuous are formed by adding (were/ was) after the subject, then add the verb with –**Ing**. E.g.: driving (drive), sleeping (sleep).

- Stative verbs are not suitable to be used with the past continuous, e.g.: The verb **know**. We do not say: she was knowing X, instead we just say: she knew√.

- When forming the negative form, just add **"Not":** they **were not** (weren't) watching a film

- To make a **'yes / no' question**, put "was / were" before of the subject: **Were** you working?

- To make a **"wh" question,** put the question word at the beginning (what, why, where, who, when): **Why were** you working?

Past Perfect

We use the past perfect:

1. For something that started in the past and continued up to a given time in the past. E.g.: She **had lived** in Algeria all her life

2. For something that happened several times before a point in the past and continued after that point. E.g.: He **had eaten** three cookies and he was wanting on another one.

3. When we are reporting our experience up to a point in the past. E.g.: my grandfather was the coolest man I **had** ever **seen**.

4. For something that happened in the past and is important later in the past. E.g.: I could not get into the car. I **had lost** my keys.

Form: SUBJECT+ HAD+ past participle of a VERB + OBJECT

-   We often use expressions like "**for"** and "**since"** with the past perfect. E.g.: I was sorry when we moved away from the city. I **had lived** there for ten years.

-   To make the negative form just add **"not".** E.g.: I **had not** been (I hadn't been)/ You **had not** gone (you hadn't gone)

-   To make a **"yes / no" question** put **"had"** before the subject. E.g: **Had** you **eaten**?

-   For **"wh"** questions, put the question word at the beginning. E.g: Why **had** you **eaten**?