

Practice (past tense)

Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Past Tense

Use the correct form of the verb in **simple past, past continuous, past perfect, or past perfect continuous**.

1. While I _____ (watch) TV, my mother _____ (cook) dinner.
2. By the time we arrived, they _____ (finish) eating.
3. She _____ (write) a book for two years before she finally published it.
4. When I was young, I _____ (play) outside every day.
5. He _____ (sleep) when the phone rang.
6. I _____ (never/see) such a beautiful beach before our vacation.
7. We _____ (walk) for hours before we found a hotel.
8. When I called him, he _____ (already/leave) the office.
9. He _____ (practice) the guitar for months before his first concert.
10. They _____ (talk) on the phone when I arrived.

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Answer

Select the correct tense in each sentence.

1. I _____ (was studying / had studied) when she called me.
2. Before she moved to New York, she _____ (had lived / was living) in London.
3. He _____ (was running / ran) five miles every morning when he was young.
4. The students _____ (had been waiting / waited) for 30 minutes before the teacher arrived.
5. As soon as he _____ (had finished / finished) his homework, he went to bed.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the Sentences Using the Correct Past Tense

1. I (study) English for five years before I moved to Canada.
2. While she (drive) to work, she (see) an accident.
3. We (wait) at the station when the train (arrive).
4. By the time he (get) home, his family (eat) dinner.
5. The kids (play) outside when it (start) to rain.

Exercise 4: Correct the Mistakes in the Sentences

1. I was cooking dinner when the phone was ringing.
2. He had gone to the gym before he eats lunch.
3. While we were slept, someone knocked on the door.
4. I had studied all night, so I was very tired in the morning.
5. The baby was crying because he had been hungry.

Answers to the Exercises

Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Past Tense

1. While I **was watching** TV, my mother **was cooking** dinner. (*Past Continuous*)
2. By the time we arrived, they **had finished** eating. (*Past Perfect*)
3. She **had been writing** a book for two years before she finally published it. (*Past Perfect Continuous*)
4. When I was young, I **played** outside every day. (*Simple Past*)
5. He **was sleeping** when the phone rang. (*Past Continuous*)
6. I **had never seen** such a beautiful beach before our vacation. (*Past Perfect*)
7. We **had been walking** for hours before we found a hotel. (*Past Perfect Continuous*)
8. When I called him, he **had already left** the office. (*Past Perfect*)
9. He **had been practicing** the guitar for months before his first concert. (*Past Perfect Continuous*)
10. They **were talking** on the phone when I arrived. (*Past Continuous*)

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Answer

1. I **was studying** when she called me. (*Past Continuous*)
2. Before she moved to New York, she **had lived** in London. (*Past Perfect*)
3. He **ran** five miles every morning when he was young. (*Simple Past*)
4. The students **had been waiting** for 30 minutes before the teacher arrived. (*Past Perfect Continuous*)
5. As soon as he **finished** his homework, he went to bed. (*Simple Past*)

Exercise 3: Rewrite the Sentences Using the Correct Past Tense

1. I **had studied** English for five years before I moved to Canada. (*Past Perfect*)
2. While she **was driving** to work, she **saw** an accident. (*Past Continuous & Simple Past*)
3. We **were waiting** at the station when the train **arrived**. (*Past Continuous & Simple Past*)
4. By the time he **got** home, his family **had eaten** dinner. (*Simple Past & Past Perfect*)
5. The kids **were playing** outside when it **started** to rain. (*Past Continuous & Simple Past*)

Exercise 4: Correct the Mistakes in the Sentences

1. **Incorrect:** I was cooking dinner when the phone was ringing.
Correct: I was cooking dinner when the phone **rang**. (*Past Continuous & Simple Past*)
2. **Incorrect:** He had gone to the gym before he eats lunch.
Correct: He had gone to the gym before he **ate** lunch. (*Past Perfect & Simple Past*)
3. **Incorrect:** While we were slept, someone knocked on the door.
Correct: While we **were sleeping**, someone knocked on the door. (*Past Continuous & Simple Past*)
4. **Incorrect:** I had studied all night, so I was very tired in the morning.
Correct: I **had been studying** all night, so I was very tired in the morning. (*Past Perfect Continuous & Simple Past*)

5. **Incorrect:** The baby was crying because he had been hungry.

Correct: The baby was crying because he **was** hungry. (*Past Continuous & Simple Past*)