

PAST TENSES

1. PAST SIMPLE

FORM

- (+) Subject + Verb -ed (regular verb)
2nd column (irregular verb)
- (-) Subject + DIDN'T + verb (base form)
- (?) DID + Subject + verb (base form)

Excepciones: BE (was / were; wasn't / weren't; was / were + subject). No se dice I DIDN'T BE ó DID YOU BE...?

USES

1. Acciones pasadas y acabadas, que tuvieron lugar en un momento determinado y que no tienen ninguna repercusión en el presente.
I visited Paris last year
2. Acciones que ocurrieron consecutivamente en el pasado
I drank a coffee and later I went to the cinema
3. Acción corta en el pasado (past simple) que interrumpió otra acción más larga que estaba en proceso (past continuous)
He was working on the computer when the phone rang

TIME EXPRESSIONS

- Las mismas que en el presente simple
- YESTERDAY (MORNING, AFTERNOON, EVENING...)
- THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
- LAST week/month/year (el pasado/ la pasada)
- AGO (hace): Se coloca detrás de un sintagma nominal que indica tiempo.
Expresión de tiempo + ago
I visited Madrid two years ago = Visité Madrid hace 2 años
- THE PREVIOUS (day/week...)
- THE (day/week...) BEFORE
- BY THE TIME + past simple...past perfect
By the time he arrived, we had finished our dinner
- WHEN
I was having a bath, when the phone rang

2. PAST CONTINUOUS

FORM

- (+) Subject + WAS/WERE + Verb -ing
- (-) Subject + WASN'T / WEREN'T + Verb -ing
- (?) WAS / WERE + Subject + Verb -ing

USES:

1. Acción que estaba ocurriendo (pero no estaba concluida) en un momento específico del pasado.
At around 8 o'clock last night, Charles was surfing the Net
2. Acción larga (past continuous) que estaba ocurriendo cuando fue interrumpida por otra acción más corta (past simple). Puede utilizarse WHEN o WHILE
I was having a bath when Mary arrived
While I was having a bath, Mary arrived
3. Dos o más acciones que estaban sucediendo simultáneamente en el pasado. En este caso, la oración subordinada suele empezar con la conjunción WHILE.
While Nick was chatting, Terry was doing her homework
Nick was chatting while Terry was doing her homework
4. Acciones pasadas repetidas y monótonas, denotando que nos desagradaban.
He was always watching television

EXPRESIONES TEMPORALES:

- WHILE/AS= mientras
While/As I was watching TV, my sister was listening to music
- AS/ WHEN=cuando.
As I was living in London, I met a lot of people
- * El verbo que le sigue a WHILE/AS suele ir en pasado continuo y el que le sigue a WHEN puede ir en pasado simple o pasado continuo.
- YESTERDAY= ayer. Yesterday morning, afternoon, evening...
- LAST= el pasado/la ex. I was studying Maths last week
- AT THAT MOMENTO
- ALL day/night...
- THE WHOLE day/night/month...(todo el/la...)
- DURING

3. PAST PERFECT

FORM

(+) Subject + HAD+ past participle (-ed si es un verbo regular y 3rd columnna si es un verbo irregular)

(-) Subject + HADN'T + past participle

(?) HAD + Subject + past participle

Se corresponde con el pretérito pluscuamperfecto en castellano. Se traduce como HABÍA+PARTICPIO

USES

1. Para hablar de una acción pasada (past perfect) que ocurrió antes que otra acción también pasada (past simple)

Fortunately, I had already sent my e-mail before my computer broke

2. Con el adverbio JUST para expresar acciones que acababan de ocurrir

When my mother phoned, the children had just gone to bed

TEMPORAL EXPRESSIONS

- Las mismas que aparecen con el presente perfecto: for/since, already/yet, just...

- UNTIL/TILL (hasta) **He didn't go to bed until the film had finished**

- AS SOON AS (Tan pronto como) **As soon as Mary had left, I phoned Jonathan**

- EARLIER (antes)

- THE PREVIOUS day/week/month...

- AFTER/BEFORE.

* Before + past simple... past perfect

Before he arrived, he had finished his homework

* After + past perfect... past simple

After he had passed his exam, he got his driving licence

COMPARE: When I arrived home my mother made lunch

When I arrived home my mother had made lunch

4. PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM

(+) Subject + HAD + BEEN + verb -ing

(-) Subject + HADN'T + BEEN + verb -ing

(?) HAD + subject + BEEN + verb -ing

USES

1.- Se utiliza para subrayar la duración de una acción que ocurrió en el pasado antes que otra.

She was so ill because she had been eating too many chocolates for two hours

TEMPORAL EXPRESSIONS

- Las mismas que aparecen con el presente perfecto: for/since, already/yet, just...

- THAT/THOSE week(s), month(s), year(s)... :

Mary had been studying French that year

- SINCE WHEN...?: **Since when had you been living in Spain?**

- UNTIL/TILL (hasta) **He had been playing football until ten o'clock**