MËSIM PRAKTIK

All Past Tenses Mixed

Kategoria e mësimit: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

> Combine the past simple, past continuous, past perfect and past perfect continuous. Includes a full timeline method, how to identify the reference point in a narrative, and which form each situation requires.

All Past Tenses Mixed

English has four past forms, and a well-told story usually uses all of them. The skill is not forming them — that part is mechanical — but deciding **which moment each verb belongs to**. This lesson gives you a timeline method that works every time.

Learning objectives

- Recognise the meaning of each past form.
- Identify the reference point in a narrative.
- Place every verb correctly on a past timeline.
- Combine the four forms naturally in a story.

The four forms at a glance

Tense	Form	Core meaning	Example
Past simple	verb + -ed / irregular	completed event	*She **arrived** at eight.*
Past continuous	was/were + -ing	action in progress, background	*She **was working** when I called.*
Past perfect	had + participle	earlier completed event	*She **had left** before I arrived.*
Past perfect continuous	had been + -ing	duration before a past point	*She **had been waiting** for an hour.*

The timeline method

1. **Find the reference point.** Which past moment is the story anchored to? Usually the first past simple verb.
2. **Ask about each other verb:** did it happen *at* that moment, *around* it, or *before* it?
3. **At that moment** → past simple. **Around it, in progress** → past continuous.
4. **Before it, completed** → past perfect. **Before it, continuing** → past perfect continuous.
5. **Check stative verbs:** they never take a continuous form.

Diagnostic table

If the sentence...	Use

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reports a finished event at a stated past time	past simple
lists events in sequence	past simple
sets the scene or describes the weather	past continuous
describes a long action interrupted by a short one	past continuous + past simple
describes two things happening at once	past continuous + past continuous
refers to something that happened before the main past event	past perfect
gives the reason for a past state	past perfect or past perfect continuous
says how long something had lasted	past perfect continuous
counts completed things before a past point	past perfect

All four in one narrative

*It **was** raining when Ana **got** to the station. She **had been travelling** since early morning and she **was** exhausted. The train she **had booked had already left**, and the ticket office **was closing**. While she **was looking** at the timetable, a guard **came** over and **explained** that another train **would leave** in twenty minutes.*

Verb	Form	Why
was raining	past continuous	background scene
got	past simple	the reference point
had been travelling	past perfect continuous	duration before that point
had booked / had already left	past perfect	earlier completed events
was closing	past continuous	in progress at that moment
came, explained	past simple	events moving the story on

Signal words by form

Form	Signal words
Past simple	yesterday, last week, in 2019, then, after that, suddenly, finally
Past continuous	while, as, at that moment, all morning, at 8 o'clock
Past perfect	before, after, by the time, already, just, never ... before
Past perfect continuous	for, since, how long, all day, before that

Common traps

Trap	Wrong	Right
Past perfect for a single event	*Yesterday I had gone to the cinema.*	**Yesterday I went to the cinema.**

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Trap	Wrong	Right
Past simple where order matters	*When I arrived, she left.* (meaning: earlier)	**When I arrived, she had left.**
Continuous with a stative verb	*I was knowing the answer.*	**I knew the answer.**
Continuous for a repeated habit	*I was going there every day.*	**I went there every day.**
Quantity with a continuous form	*He had been writing five letters.*	**He had written five letters.**
did with a perfect form	*Did you had finished?*	**Had you finished?**

Learning tips

1. Before writing a narrative, mark the reference point. Everything else positions itself around it.
2. Rewrite a short story you know, then label each verb with its form and justify it.
3. Remember that the past perfect is a tool for *order*. If the order is already obvious, you may not need it.

Summary checklist

- Have I identified the reference point?
- Background → continuous; event → simple.
- Earlier and completed → past perfect; earlier and continuing → past perfect continuous.
- Stative verb → no continuous form.
- Do the time expressions match the tenses I chose?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Anglishtja ka **katër forma të shkuara**. Koha e shkuar e thjeshtë tregon ngjarje të përfunduara; e vazhduara tregon veprime në zhvillim dhe sfondin; më se e kryera tregon një ngjarje më të hershme; dhe më se e kryera e vazhduar tregon kohëzgjatje para një pike të shkuar.

Ndërtimi i tyre është mekanik dhe mësohet shpejt. Vështirësia është **renditja e ngjarjeve në kohë**. Prandaj ndihmon një metodë e qëndrueshme: gjeni së pari **pikën e referimit** të rrëfimit, zakonisht folja e parë në kohën e shkuar të thjeshtë; pastaj pyesni për çdo folje tjetër nëse veprimi ndodhi *në* atë çast, *rreth* tij apo *para* tij.

Veprimi në atë çast merr kohën e thjeshtë; veprimi rreth tij, në zhvillim, merr formën e vazhduar; veprimi para tij, i përfunduar, merr më se të kryerën; veprimi para tij, që vazhdonte, merr më se të kryerën e vazhduar.

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Shqipja ka tri nga këto katër forma, prandaj përputhja është e mirë por jo e plotë.

Anglisht	Shqip	Kuptimi
Past simple *She arrived at eight.*	e kryera e thjeshtë Ajo **mbërriti** në orën tetë.	ngjarje e mbyllur

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Anglisht	Shqip	Kuptimi
Past continuous *She was working when I called.*	e pakryera Ajo **punonte** kur telefonova.	veprim në zhvillim
Past perfect *She had left before I arrived.*	më se e kryera Ajo **kishte ikur** para se të mbërrija.	ngjarje më e hershme
Past perfect continuous *She had been waiting for an hour.*	— Ajo **priste prej** një ore.	kohëzgjatje para një pike

Vetëm forma e fundit nuk ka ekuivalent të drejtpërdrejtë; ajo shprehet me të pakryerën plus *prej*.

Ku ndryshojnë dy gjuhët

- **Tri forma kundrejt katërve.** Shqipja i mbulon tri të parat pothuajse një për një; e katërta kërkon një shprehje kohore.
- **Zakoni.** Shqipja e shpreh me të pakryerën, anglishtja me kohën e thjeshtë ose me *used to*. Ky është burimi i gabimit *I was going there every day*.
- **Përdorimi i më se të kryerës.** Shqipja e përdor më lirshëm; anglishtja e kërkon vetëm kur radha ka rëndësi.

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
Yesterday I had gone to the cinema.	**Yesterday I went to the cinema.**	një ngjarje e vetme
When I arrived, she left. për një ngjarje më të hershme	**When I arrived, she had left.**	radha e ngjarjeve
I was going there every day.	**I went there every day.**	zakon
I was knowing the answer.	**I knew the answer.**	folje gjendjeje
Did you had finished?	**Had you finished?**	*did* nuk shkon me format e kryera

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