

Review of Past Tenses

PAST TENSE

We can talk about the past with different tenses:

1. Nina bought lovely flowers for her mother last weekend.
2. Kate was walking down the street this morning when a tramp came up to her and begged for money.
3. Paul has recorded over thirty albums.
4. When I arrived at the cinema, the movie had already started.
5. I arrived home late and realized my son had been playing on the computer for hours.

Can you identify the situations where we use each of these tenses?



Talk to the person next to you and decide when and why different tenses are used.

Can you remember the name of each verb tense?

1. Nina bought lovely flowers for her mother last weekend.



Past Simple

Completed action
with specific time
in the past

The time when
Nina bought
those flowers
matters

Which time expressions can I use with the Past Simple?

yesterday

last

ago

at (hour)

in (month)

in (year)

on (day of the week)

2. Kate was walking down the street this morning when a tramp came up to her and begged for money.



Past Simple
Continuous

Something **was**
happening at a
specific time in the
past when
something else
happened and
interrupted the
first action

3. Paul has recorded over thirty albums.

Present Perfect

Completed action
sometime in the
past

It **doesn't** matter
when Paul
recorded his
albums.



Which time expressions can I use with the Present Perfect?

already

just

since and for
(with
non-continuous verbs,
e.g.: have,
like, admire,
know, etc.)

never

(number) times

yet

recently

4. When I arrived at the cinema, the movie had already started.



Past Perfect with
Past Simple

Completed action
before another
action in the past

The “older” action
is always the one in
the past perfect

I arrived home late and realized my son **had been playing** on the computer **for hours**.

Past Perfect Continuous

An action started in the past and **continued up until another time in the past**.



The period of time during which my son had been playing before I arrived matters

We can also talk about our past habits with
“used to and “would”:

I used to travel everywhere with my parents

Do I travel with my parents now?

What would you do on those trips?



Now, let's put all this theory into practice and do this exercise online:

<http://www.englishexercises.org/makeagame/viewgame.asp?id=7943>

