

Use of Simple Past Tense

Simple Past Tense is used for an action which completed at some certain time in the past; as,

He went to Mumbai yesterday.

She came to see me last night.

The building was built in 1999.

I bought some chocolates on Sunday last.

Note : Simple Past Tense is used with the following adverbs of time or Adverbial phrases of past time (Time expressing words) such as—Yesterday, yesterday morning, yesterday noon, yesterday evening, yesterday afternoon, the day before yesterday, the other day, ago, last morning, last evening, last night, last day, last week, last month, last year, last moment, in March, 1942; in May, 1998; ...etc.

Look at these sentences :

1. He received her letter a month ago.

2. I left college last year.

3. The ship sailed yesterday.

This tense (simple past tense) is used for an action which completed (occurred) in the past time. In this case, it is used without an adverb of time; as,

The peon bought a cup of coffee.

His father came back.

I bought this pen in New York.

He learnt English in Muzaffarpur.

She didn't sleep well.

Babar defeated Ranasanga at Kanwaha.

Simple Past Tense is used after the phrasal expressions such as—'it is time', 'it is high time', 'it is about time', etc; as,

It is time he started playing cricket.

It is high time she left for the bus stop.

[REDACTED] If the adverbs of time such as—today, this morning, this evening, this week, this month, this year, recently...etc are used in a sentence, Simple Past Tense or Present Perfect Tense can be used in the sentence; as,

He saw me today. He has seen me today.

He saw me this week. He has seen me this week.

[REDACTED] Suppositional sentences often start (begin) with the word—If, as if, as though, if only, I wish, we wish, he wishes, she wishes, they wish...etc. simple past tense is used with the suppositional sentences; as,

I wish I were the Chief Minister of Bihar.

If I became the Prime Minister of India, I would solve the problem of Kashmir.

He talks as if he were my master.

[REDACTED] Simple Past Tense is used in the If-clause of conditional sentence. It denotes present or future time; as,

If you reached in time, you might catch the train.

If my servant came on time, I would pay him his wages.

[REDACTED] When any action (An action) is continued in the past and any other action takes place (occurs) during the continued action, Past Continuous Tense is used for the continued action and Simple Past Tense is used for the action taking place (occurring) during the continued action; as,

When I was writing a book, Sudhirji arrived.

She was cooking food when her husband came.

While he was watering the plants, an insect bit him.

While the girls were dancing, their father came to see them.

[REDACTED] The two actions took place in the past, out of these two actions, The first action took place first and the second action took place next. The first action is called previous action and Past Perfect Tense is used with the previous Action. But the second action is called subsequent action and Simple Past Tense is used with the subsequent action; as,

Example: The Patient had died before the doctor came.

Use of Past Continuous Tense

Past Continuous Tense is used to express (denote) an action going at sometime in the past. The time of the action may or may not be indicated; as

I was writing this book yesterday morning.

She saw me as she was passing by yesterday.

They were reading a notice.

When she came to me I was talking to my brother.

We were listening to the radio all evening.

The light went out while I was reading.

When he saw me, I was playing Ludo.

: When the two actions are taking place (continued) at the same time in the past, Past Continuous Tense is used for both actions; as,

While my mother was singing, I was sleeping.

While I was writing this chapter, my wife was watching T.V.

Use of Past Perfect Tense

: If the two actions took place in the past, out of these two actions, the first action has complete first and the

second action has completed next, the first completed action is called previous action and past perfect tense is used with it (the previous action) and the second completed action which happened next is called subsequent action and simple past tense is used with it (the subsequent action); as,

Example: **The bell had rung** before **I reached** the school.

Past Perfect Tense is used to describe the unreal situations (suppositional facts) after these phrasal expressions—I wish, we wish, he wishes, she wishes, they wish, as if, as though.....etc; as,

She wishes she had been born in 1948.

She talks to me as if she had come from the film industry.

Past Perfect Tense is used in the following structure to describe the unreal situations (suppositional facts) :

Structure :

(i) *If + S + had + M.V³ + (,) + S + would/could/might + have + M.V³ + O + (.)*

(ii) *Had + S + M.V³ + (,) + S + would/could/might + have + M.V³ + O + (.)*; as,

If the police had come a little before, the criminal would not have gone away.

Had the student studied honestly, he would have succeeded.

Use of Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Past Perfect Continuous Tense is used for an action that began before a certain point in the past and continued upto that time; as,

His elder sister had been dancing for two hours.

I had been reading a novel since 2013.

She had been singing a song.

My younger brother had been quarrelling.