

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: Grammar - Past Tense Recap

1) Simple Past

- Something that happened once in the past:
- I met my husband in 1990.
- We went to Japan for a vacation.

- Something that happened again and again in the past:
- We slept a lot while we were on holiday.
- They always enjoyed visiting their relatives.

- Something that was true for some time in the past:
- I lived abroad for five years.
- She played a lot of badminton when she was younger.

2) Past Continuous

- For something which continued before and after another action:
- The children were doing their homework when I got home.
- As I was watching television the telephone rang.

- For something that happened before and after a particular time:
- It was nine o'clock. I was writing a letter.
- In December she was working in Starbucks.

- To show that something continued for some time:
- My head was aching.
- Everyone was screaming.



1 • For something that was happening *again and again*:

• They *were meeting* secretly after school.

• They *were always quarrelling*.

5 • With verbs which show *change or growth*:

• The children *were growing up* quickly.

• Her English *was improving*.

3) Past Perfect

10 • For something that *started in the past* and *continued up to a given time in the past*:

• When James died he and Jasmine *had been married* for nearly sixty years.

• She didn't want to move. She *had lived* in Manchester all her life.

15 • We can also use the past perfect *continuous* for this:

• She didn't want to move. She *had been living* in Manchester all her life.

20 • For something we had done *several times* up to a point in the past and *continued* to do *after that point*:

• He was a wonderful guitarist. He *had been playing* ever since he was twelve.

25 • He *had written three* novels and he was working on another one.

30 • When we are *reporting our experience* and *including up to the (then) present*:

• My 21st birthday was the worst day I *had ever had*.

• I was pleased to meet Christopher. I *hadn't met* him before, even though I *had met* his wife several times.



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- 1 • For something that *happened in the past but is*
important at the time of reporting:
- *I couldn't get into the house. I had lost my keys.*
 - *Teresa wasn't at home. She had gone shopping.*
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