

UNIT 17

THE PAST TENSE

REVIEW

The **simple past tense** is used to show **an action took place at a certain time in the past** or **a past habit with words such as 'always', 'never', 'seldom' and 'sometimes'**.

Review these.

- I **bought** a computer yesterday.
- When I was a boy, I always **caught** spiders with my friends.

We use **'did + infinitive'** in the negative and interrogative forms in the **simple past tense**.

Review these.

- **Did** Tom **visit** the dentist yesterday?
Tom **did not visit** the dentist yesterday.

The **past continuous tense** is used to show **an action taking place at a certain time in the past** or **two actions taking place at the same time in the past** or **an action taking place at a certain time when another action happened**.

Review these.

- They **were reading** in the library just now.
- Some students **were talking** while the teacher **was teaching**.
- I **was packing** my bag when it started to rain.

The **past perfect tense** is used to show that **an action was completed by a certain time in the past** or **an action had happened in the past before a second one took place** or **a past wish that was not fulfilled**.

Review these.

- By the time Jerry was five, he **had learnt** to spell more than two hundred words!
- The thief **had escaped** before I could stop him.
- I wish I **had married** Olivia.

The **past perfect continuous tense** is used to show **the continuity of an action at a certain time in the past** or **an action was going on in the past when a second one took place**.

Review these.

- Jim **had been studying** the whole day yesterday.
- The driver **had been driving** for four hours before he took a rest.