

LESSON 20 – THE PAST TENSE

EXERCISE 1. Use the simple past or the past continuous tense of the verbs in brackets to complete the sentences below.

1. Till 6 o'clock in the evening we _____ (do) our homework.
Ans. Till 6 o'clock in the evening we *were doing* our homework.
2. We _____ (see) this movie last Saturday.
Ans. We *saw* this movie last Saturday.
3. Sunil _____ (prepare) to leave when I _____ (enter) the room.
Ans. Sunil *was preparing* to leave when I _____ (enter) the room.
4. By the time we _____ (arrive) home, it had become dark.
Ans. By the time we *arrived* home, it had become dark.
5. They _____ (live) in London for a long time.
Ans. They *lived* in London for a long time.
6. When I was young, I _____ (play) hide and seek quite often.
Ans. When I was young, I *played* hide and seek quite often.
7. Mohit _____ (search) for his wallet, when his son _____ (bring) it to him.
Ans. Mohit *was searching* for his wallet, when his son *brought* it to him.
8. Reena _____ (slip) on a banana peel while she _____ (walk) on the road.
Ans. Reena *slipped* on a banana peel while she *was walking* on the road.

EXERCISE 2. Fill in the blanks with the correct tense form – simple past or past perfect.

1. Mohit _____ (go) to work when I _____ (call) in the morning.
Ans. Mohit *had gone* to work when I *called* in the morning.
2. The principal _____ (accepted) the new proposal before the students _____ (meet) him.
Ans. The principal *had accepted* the new proposal before the students *met* him.
3. We _____ (line) up to buy tickets for the show.
Ans. We *lined* up to buy tickets for the show.
4. My mother _____ (advise) them not to go out in the rain, but they _____ (refuse) to listen to her.
Ans. My mother *advised* them not to go out in the rain, but they *refused* to listen to her.
5. When he _____ (want) to buy some books, he realized that he _____ (forget) to bring his wallet.
Ans. When he *wanted* to buy some books, he realized that he *had forgotten* to bring his wallet.
6. Last week, I _____ (run) into an old friend of mine. We _____ (see,not) each other for so long that we nearly didn't recognize each other.
Ans. Last week, I *ran* into an old friend of mine. We *had not seen* each other for so long that we nearly didn't recognize each other.
7. Before moving to Kannauj, I _____ (never, even, hear) of the place.

Ans. Before moving to Kannauj, I *had never heard* of the place.

8. We _____ (hear) a lot about the new film, but we _____ (never, expect) it to be so good.

Ans. We *had heard* a lot about the new film, but we *never expected* it to be so good.

EXERCISE 3. Fill in the blanks with the correct tense form – past perfect or past perfect continuous.

1. It was midnight, and I was dead tired because I _____ (work) since morning.

Ans. It was midnight, and I was dead tired because I *had been working* since morning.

2. The temperature _____ (fall) below freezing point before they even started.

Ans. The temperature *had fallen* below freezing point before they even started.

3. The baby _____ (cry) for an hour, and we were all at our wit's end.

Ans. The baby *had been crying* for an hour, and we were all at our wit's end.

4. The broken lock indicated that someone _____ (try) to break in.

Ans. The broken lock indicated that someone *had tried* to break in.

5. By the time I reached there, the movie _____ (already, start).

Ans. By the time I reached there, the movie *had already started*.

EXERCISE 4. Fill in the blanks with the correct tense form – present perfect or simple past.

1. _____ (you, be) to the new jewellery showroom? Yes, I _____ (go) there last week.

Ans. *Have you been* to the new jewellery showroom?

2. Since I began acting, I _____ (perform) in three plays and a TV drama. However, _____ (not yet, act) in a movie.

Ans. Since I began acting I *have performed* in three plays and a TV drama. However I *have not yet acted* in a movie.

3. My boss _____ (praise) me yesterday.

Ans. My boss *praised* me yesterday.

4. Since computers were first introduced, technology _____ (change) a great deal. We _____ (buy) a new computer with the latest technology last week.

Ans. Since computers were first introduced, technology *has changed* a great deal. We *bought* a new computer with the latest technology last week.

5. Rahul _____ (just, become) a pharmacist.

Ans. Rahul *has just become* a pharmacist.

6. Mohan _____ (see) the play last Sunday.

Ans. Mohan *saw* the play last Sunday.

7. I _____ (witness) a terrible tragedy yesterday.

Ans. I *witnessed* A terrible tragedy yesterday.