

**English Language Skills  
Consolidation. Livello: B2**

**Module Two  
Success**

# Contents:

Past tenses review:

Past continuous

Past simple

Past perfect simple

Past perfect continuous

Success



# Simple Past

- We form affirmative statements in the simple past with a subject and the past form of a verb

I finished my homework after lunch

I ate a sandwich for lunch

- We form the past form of regular verbs with -d, -ed
- Irregular verbs form their past forms in different ways (see lists)
- We use the auxiliary verb did to form negative statements, questions and short answers

We didn't like the film last night

Did you hear the news?, Yes, I did

# Uses of the Simple Past

- To describe an action that happened at a definite time in the past  
I travelled to Paris in 1985
- To talk about an action that interrupted another action that was in progress in the past  
I was studying when the electricity went off
- To talk about actions that happened in a sequence in the past  
I came home, picked up my laptop and left
- To narrate the main actions and events in a story  
It was getting dark, I was walking down the road, when I saw a strange man ...
- With time expressions such as yesterday, last night, ..., four days ago, in 2004, ...  
I saw a great film last night
- With stative verbs  
I had an exam yesterday

# -ed endings

- Most verbs add –ed: started, obeyed, ...
- Verbs which end in a consonant +e, add –d: lived, moved, ...
- Verbs that have 1 syllable and end in a single vowel + a single consonant, double the consonant and add –ed
- Exceptions:
  - Verbs ending in –w or –x, do not double the consonant: fixed, showed
  - Verbs with 2 syllables, ending in a vowel + a consonant, with stress on the last syllable, double the final consonant: preferred
  - Verbs with 2 syllables ending in l, double it: travelled
  - Verbs ending in a consonant + y, change y to i and add –ed: worried
  - Verbs in –ie, add –d: tied, died

# Past Continuous

- We form the past continuous tense with the past tense of be + a verb + -ing

Were you listening to the radio at 9 last night?

No, I wasn't. I was watching TV

(Check present continuous for spelling of -ing forms)

# Uses of the Past Continuous

- To describe an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past

Mary was working at ten yesterday

- To talk about an action that was in progress when a second action happened

I was studying when the electricity went off

- To talk about two actions that were in progress at the same time in the past

I was having a bath while my husband was cooking

- To give background information in a story

It was getting dark, I was walking down the road when I saw a strange man

...

- With time expressions such as while, all morning, ...

I was working all day

# When and while

We use when or while in sentences with two actions in the past

When I came home, I picked up my post

I was sleeping when the fire alarm went off

I was reading a book while you were watching TV

When the clause with when or while **comes at the beginning**, we put a comma after it

When the phone rang, I was watching the news

I was watching the news when the phone rang



# Past perfect

We form the past perfect tense with had + a past participle

I had met Peter before you introduced me to him

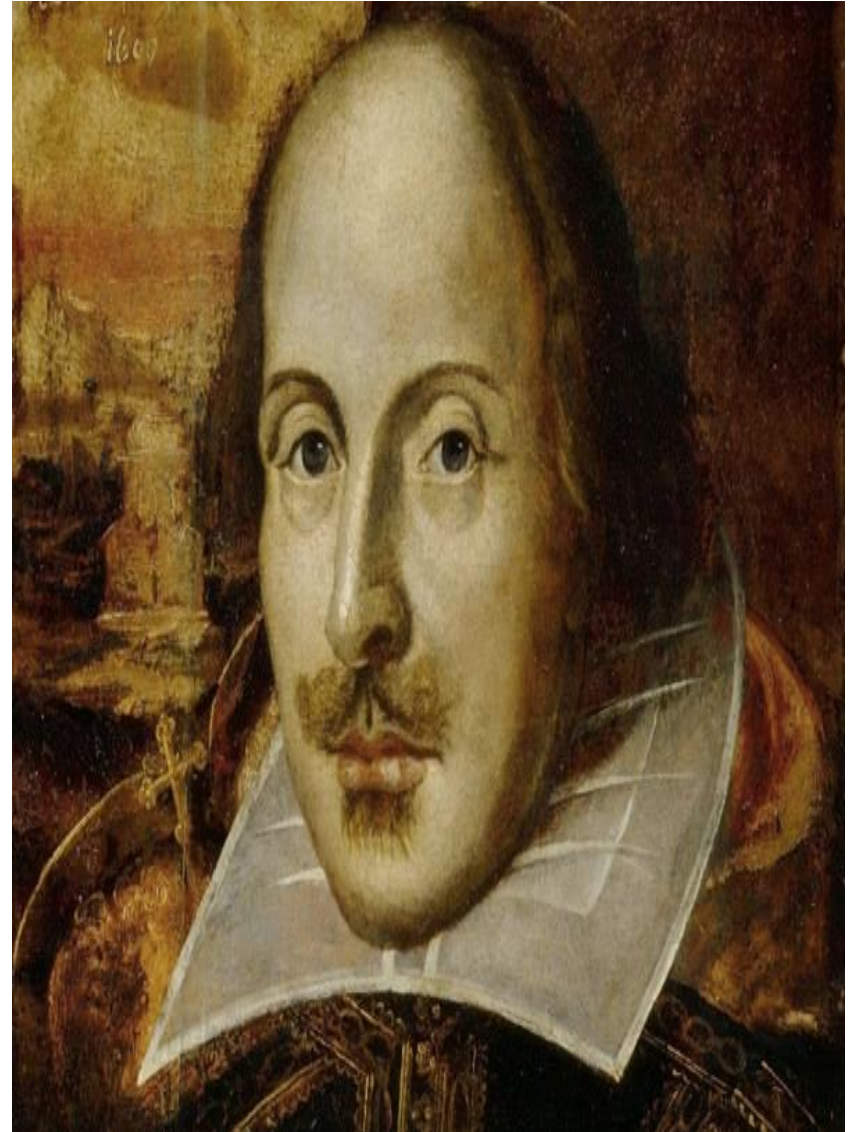
Had you seen the film before?

No, I hadn't

We form regular past participles by adding -d, -ed to a verb

For irregular past participles, go

to: [http://www.myenglishteacher.net/irregular\\_verbs.html](http://www.myenglishteacher.net/irregular_verbs.html)



# Uses of the Past perfect

To talk about a **past action that ended before another action or time in the past** (when we use before and after, we may use the simple past too) The film had started before we arrived

**To show the cause of a past action:** I was tired on Monday, I hadn't slept well the night before

**With time expressions** such as when, after, before, as soon as, By the time, by, until: By the time I got home, my mother had already prepared dinner.

**With adverbs** such as ever, never, already, yet, just, so far and still: I had never been to such a beautiful place before

# Past Perfect Continuous

We form the past perfect continuous tense with had + been + a verb + -ing

We use it to **emphasize the continuation of an action that was in progress before another action or time in the past**: Sara had been working here for two weeks when she had the accident

To **show the cause of a past action**: I had been travelling all night, so I was tired.

With **time expressions** such as when, before, by the time, for, since and how long: He had been working for two hours when you interrupted him

# Past Tense Revision

Go to the following site. You have to fill each space with either the **past continuous, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous**.

**Don't** use contractions.

<http://www.esl-lounge.com/student/grammar/4g4-past-tenses-exercise.php>

## **Business Grammar – Tense Review**

When you have finished, go to the following link to the mixed tense exercises. Take note of the specific business terminology:

<http://www.businessenglishsite.com/business-english-grammar-verb-tenses2.html>

Reading:

## 16 Wildly Successful People Who Overcame Huge Obstacles To Get There

You've heard it before: "If at first you don't succeed, try again." Sometimes you may feel like that's just a saying, but it is absolutely not. The 16 incredible stories below show how even horrible tragedies and setbacks can help fuel a drive for success. **Read on...**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/25/successful-people-obstacles\\_n\\_3964459.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/25/successful-people-obstacles_n_3964459.html)



# Video: How to Develop a Successful Business Strategy

## Instructions

- You will need
- Long-term goals
- Understanding of competitors
- Understanding of needed resources



<http://www.howcast.com/videos/423063-how-to-develop-a-successful-business-strategy/>

# Video: Oil Industry - Facts & Summary -

Review the past tenses  
and learn about the  
history of the oil industry  
with this short video:

<http://www.history.com/topics/oil-industry>

