



MINI LESSON 21: TIME EXPRESSIONS WITH THE PAST TENSE

Objective:

Understand and practice common time expressions used with the **past simple tense**.

GRAMMAR EXPLANATION

When we talk about the **past**, we often use **time expressions** to show *when* something happened.

Here are some of the most common time expressions used with the **past simple**:

Specific Time in the Past

- yesterday
- last night / last week / last year
- in 2005 / in April
- two days ago / a week ago

Examples:

- I visited my grandmother **yesterday**.
 - She traveled to Spain **last summer**.
 - We met **two years ago**.
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Time Duration or Frequency in the Past

- when I was a child
- when I was in high school
- all day / all week
- every summer / every weekend

Examples:

- I played outside **every day** when I was a kid.
- They stayed at the hotel **all weekend**.
- He watched cartoons **when he was in high school**.

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PRACTICE 1: Choose the correct time expression for each sentence.

1. I finished my homework ____ (yesterday / tomorrow).
 2. She went to the park ____ (next week / last weekend).
 3. We visited Paris ____ (in 2019 / in 2030).
 4. They got married ____ (two years ago / in two years).
 5. I studied French ____ (when I was in school / when I am in school).
 6. He slept all day ____ (last Sunday / next Sunday).
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PRACTICE 2: Complete the sentences with a time expression from the box.

(yesterday – last night – in 2010 – two weeks ago – when I was ten – all summer)

1. We went camping _____.
 2. I watched a movie _____.
 3. They moved to this city _____.
 4. I broke my arm _____.
 5. She stayed up late _____.
 6. I started playing soccer _____.
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PRACTICE 3: Write your own sentences using these time expressions.

1. yesterday
 2. last year
 3. two months ago
 4. when I was a child
 5. in 2008
 6. every weekend
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Answer Key

◆ Practice 1: Choose the correct time expression

1. I finished my homework **yesterday**.
2. She went to the park **last weekend**.
3. We visited Paris **in 2019**.
4. They got married **two years ago**.
5. I studied French **when I was in school**.
6. He slept all day **last Sunday**.

◆ Practice 2: Complete the sentences with a time expression

1. We went camping **all summer**.
2. I watched a movie **yesterday**.
3. They moved to this city **in 2010**.
4. I broke my arm **when I was ten**.
5. She stayed up late **last night**.
6. I started playing soccer **two weeks ago**.

◆ Practice 3: Answers will vary.

(Examples:)

1. I went to the beach **yesterday**.
2. I started a new job **last year**.
3. We traveled to Argentina **two months ago**.
4. I played outside every day **when I was a child**.
5. My sister was born **in 2008**.
6. We visited our grandparents **every weekend**.