

SIMPLE PAST AND PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was waiting for the bus when it started to rain.
While I was waiting for the bus, it started to rain.

It **started** to rain.

I **was waiting** for the bus.

Past

Present

- To form the past progressive use *was / were* and the verb ending in *-ing*.
- The past progressive is used to talk about an ongoing action in the past usually interrupted by an action in the past expressed in simple past.
- The word *when* is usually followed by the simple past and the word *while* by the past progressive.

	Subject	Modal + verb in base form	Complement
Obligation	I	must + respect	my teacher and classmates.
	Lorena	has to + clean up	her room.
Prohibition	You	mustn't + take	pictures with flash.
	You	can't + go out	with your friends.
Possibility	He	can + buy	a new phone with his savings.
Advice	We	should + dress	properly for the wedding.
	Carlos	shouldn't + sleep	so late.

The negative form of *have to* (*don't have to*), means that there is no obligation or necessity of doing something. You are allowed to decide whether you want to do something or not: You **don't have to** bring school uniform on Fridays. (Uniform on Fridays is not obligatory.)

	Subject	Verb <i>have</i> in the past tense	Past participle	Complement
Affirmative	I	had	seen	him before.
	The computer	had	broken down	four times.
	She	had	lived	in Canada.
Negative	Horacio	hadn't	invited	them to the party.
	They	hadn't	prepared	the presentation.
	I	hadn't	had	time to help my brother.

- Use the past perfect to express that an action in the past happened before another action in the past: He **had left** before I **arrived**.
- You can make contractions with had: I had seen – I'd seen, she had seen – she'd seen.

Subject	Modal + <i>have</i>	Past participle	Complement	Regret
I / You / He / She / We / They	should + have	told	the truth.	(The truth wasn't told.)
	could + have	done	more to help.	(The person / people didn't do more.)
	would + have	come	to the meeting.	(The person / people didn't come to the meeting.)

Modal	Subject	Past perfect	Complement	Regret
If only	I / you / he / she / we / they	had been	there that day.	(The person / people wasn't / weren't there.)
I wish		had talked	to him.	(The person / people didn't talk to him.)

- All of these structures can also be used in the negative form: I **shouldn't have** told the truth. If only I **hadn't been** there that day.
- Use *should have* to talk about something someone wanted to do but didn't do; *could have* to talk about possibilities in the past if something had been different; and *would have* to imagine different results in the past if something different had happened in the past.