



## Mixed Tenses: Past Tenses Mixed

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I \_\_\_ to the cinema last night.  
a) went  
b) was going  
c) had gone  
d) had been going
- While she \_\_\_ dinner, the phone rang.  
a) cooked  
b) was cooking  
c) had cooked  
d) had been cooking
- By the time we arrived, the movie \_\_\_\_.  
a) started  
b) was starting  
c) had been starting  
d) had started
- They \_\_\_ for three hours before they took a break.  
a) walked  
b) were walking  
c) had walked  
d) had been walking
- What \_\_\_ you \_\_\_ at 8 o'clock yesterday evening?  
a) were ... doing  
b) did ... do  
c) had ... done  
d) had ... been doing
- She \_\_\_ the letter before she went to bed.  
a) wrote  
b) was writing  
c) had written  
d) had been writing
- The sun \_\_\_ when we woke up this morning.  
a) shone  
b) was shining  
c) had shone  
d) had been shining
- He \_\_\_ in Paris for five years before he moved to London.  
a) lived  
b) was living  
c) had lived  
d) had been living
- I \_\_\_ my homework when my friend called.  
a) did  
b) was doing  
c) had done  
d) had been doing
- She \_\_\_ never \_\_\_ such a beautiful place before.  
a) did ... see  
b) was ... seeing  
c) had ... been seeing  
d) had ... seen
- The children \_\_\_ in the park all afternoon yesterday.  
a) played  
b) were playing  
c) had played  
d) had been playing

12. When I got home, my mother \_\_\_\_ a cake.  
a) baked  
b) was baking  
c) had baked  
d) had been baking
13. I \_\_\_\_ the news on TV when I heard a loud noise outside.  
a) watched  
b) had watched  
c) was watching  
d) had been watching
14. After she \_\_\_\_ the book, she lent it to me.  
a) finished  
b) was finishing  
c) had finished  
d) had been finishing
15. They \_\_\_\_ married in 2010.  
a) got  
b) were getting  
c) had got  
d) had been getting
16. He was tired because he \_\_\_\_ all day.  
a) worked  
b) was working  
c) had worked  
d) had been working
17. I \_\_\_\_ just \_\_\_\_ dinner when the guests arrived.  
a) was ... finishing  
b) did ... finish  
c) had ... finished  
d) had ... been finishing
18. At midnight, everyone \_\_\_\_ at the party.  
a) danced  
b) was dancing  
c) had danced  
d) had been dancing
19. She \_\_\_\_ the company in 1995.  
a) was founding  
b) had founded  
c) had been founding  
d) founded
20. It \_\_\_\_ for hours before the flood started.  
a) had been raining  
b) rained  
c) was raining  
d) had rained



## Answers

1. a) went
2. b) was cooking
3. d) had started
4. d) had been walking
5. a) were ... doing
6. c) had written
7. b) was shining
8. c) had lived
9. b) was doing
10. d) had ... seen
11. a) played
12. b) was baking
13. c) was watching
14. c) had finished
15. a) got
16. d) had been working
17. c) had ... finished
18. b) was dancing
19. d) founded
20. a) had been raining



# Explanations

**1. “went” (a)**

Use Past Simple for completed actions at a specific time in the past. 'Last night' indicates a finished time.

**2. “was cooking” (b)**

Use Past Continuous for a longer action that was interrupted by a shorter action (the phone rang).

**3. “had started” (d)**

Use Past Perfect for an action that happened before another past action. The movie started before we arrived.

**4. “had been walking” (d)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous to emphasize the duration of an action that happened before another past action.

**5. “were ... doing” (a)**

Use Past Continuous to ask about an action in progress at a specific time in the past.

**6. “had written” (c)**

Use Past Perfect to show that one action (writing) was completed before another past action (going to bed).

**7. “was shining” (b)**

Use Past Continuous to describe the background situation when another action happened.

**8. “had lived” (c)**

Use Past Perfect to describe a completed period of time before another past event.

**9. “was doing” (b)**

Use Past Continuous for an action in progress when another action interrupted it.

**10. “had ... seen” (d)**

Use Past Perfect with 'never' to talk about experiences up to a point in the past.

**11. “played” (a)**

Use Past Simple for a completed action that lasted for a specific period in the past.

**12. “was baking” (b)**

Use Past Continuous for an action that was in progress when another action happened.

**13. “was watching” (c)**

Use Past Continuous for an ongoing action that was interrupted by another event.

**14. “had finished” (c)**

Use Past Perfect after 'after' to show which action happened first.

**15. “got” (a)**

Use Past Simple for a completed action at a specific time in the past.

**16. “had been working” (d)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous to explain the cause of a past state, emphasizing the duration of the activity.

**17. “had ... finished” (c)**

Use Past Perfect with 'just' to show that one action was completed shortly before another.

**18. “was dancing” (b)**

Use Past Continuous to describe what was happening at a specific moment in the past.

**19. “founded” (d)**

Use Past Simple for a completed action at a specific time in the past.

**20. “had been raining” (a)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous to emphasize the duration of an action that led to a result in the past.