



Beginner 2 | Lesson 7 | Past Tense - Be - Was / Were

## Life History

Meg and Todd talk about times in their lives.

**Todd:** Hey Meg, so let's talk about our life history.

**Meg:** Okay, let's do it.

**Todd:** So first, when \_\_\_\_\_ born?

**Meg:** I \_\_\_\_\_ in 1984. What about you?

**Todd:** I was born way before that. I was born in 1969.

**Meg:** Oh!

**Todd:** Yeah, a ways ago.

**Meg:** Not too long ago.

**Todd:** Yeah, 47 years ago, but yeah.

**Meg:** Okay, a long time ago.

**Todd:** Okay, so when \_\_\_\_\_ graduate high school?

**Meg:** I \_\_\_\_\_ high school in 2003.

**Todd:** Oh my gosh. Really!

**Meg:** What \_\_\_\_\_?

**Todd:** Wow, I graduated high school in 1987.

**Meg:** Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ three years old.

**Todd:** Wow, yeah! Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ probably about the same intelligence level about that time.

**Meg:** No, that's not true.

**Todd:** And when did you graduate from college?

**Meg:** I graduated from college in 2010. When did you graduate from college?

**Todd:** I graduated from college in 1993, so like you I \_\_\_\_\_ little extra time to graduate.

**Meg:** Yeah, I \_\_\_\_\_ time than normal.

**Todd:** And when did you \_\_\_\_\_ first job?

**Meg:** I \_\_\_\_\_ first job when I was 17 years old, I think. When I was still in high school.



## Quiz

1) Who got fired?

- a) He did
- b) She did
- c) Neither of them

2) Who was a babysitter?

- a) He was
- b) She was
- c) Neither of them

3) What happened in 1984?

- a) She was born
- b) He finished high school
- c) He met his friend

4) Who got a phone at age 17?

- a) Just him
- b) Just her
- c) Both of them

## Grammar Challenge

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- |            |           |           |           |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| worked     | did you   | took more | graduated |
| when I was | get your  | was born  | took a    |
| got my     | about you | we were   | were you  |

## Speaking Challenge

Match the answers with the questions.

- 1) Did you clean your house today?
- 2) Did you study English today?
- 3) Did you call anyone today?
- 4) Did you check any social media accounts today?
- 5) Did you watch or read the news this morning?

- 
- ( ) Yes, I talked with my friend in Italy.
  - ( ) No, I didn't. It was not that dirty though.
  - ( ) Yes, I saw a few new posts from friends.
  - ( ) No, I did not. Did anything happen?
  - ( ) Yes, I reviewed vocabulary.

**What about you?** Share your answers to the questions.

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**Todd:** What did you do?

**Meg:** I \_\_\_\_\_ at a wedding shop, a wedding dress shop, so I helped to assist the customers and clean the dresses.

**Todd:** That's a cool job.

**Meg:** Ah, it wasn't so great actually.

**Todd:** Why?

**Meg:** Because brides can get a little crazy.

**Todd:** I can imagine.

**Meg:** What about you? When was your first job?

**Todd:** Well, my first unofficial job was when I was 13. I was a dishwasher.

**Meg:** Oh, at a restaurant?

**Todd:** Yeah, and I think it was illegal because I was 13. But yeah, I was a dishwasher. But then my first official job was at McDonald's.

**Meg:** Oh, what did you do there?

**Todd:** I made the filet-o-fish. But I got fired.

**Meg:** Oh, why?

**Todd:** Also, again I lied about my age. So actually wait, I was 14, and I lied and said I was 15 and they fired me, but I worked there for three months.

**Meg:** Oh, and you got paid?

**Todd:** And I got paid.

**Meg:** Well, that's good at least.

**Todd:** It was good times. Good times.

**Meg:** (Laughter)

**Todd:** OK, so when did you meet your best friend?

**Meg:** I met my best friend in 2007, so about 10 years ago. What about you?

**Todd:** Oh gosh, I met my best friend in high school, so I was a sophomore, a second year student, so that was 1984 or 1985.

**Meg:** Wow! So you've been best friends for a long time.

**Todd:** A long time, yeah, yep. So how about phones? When did you get your first phone?

**Meg:** Hmm! I think I got my first phone when I was also 17, the same year I had my first job. It was my first cell-phone, was that year. What about you?

**Todd:** Well, I got my first phone also when I was 17, but it was a real phone. My parents gave me my own phone line in my house, so I had a phone in my room. Back then that was common in the 80s, so young high school people would have their own phone in their house.

**Meg:** Yeah, some of my friends had that when I was growing up also, but I wasn't lucky enough to get my own phone until I could pay for it myself.



## Grammar Notes

### Past Tense - Be - Was / Were

The past tense refers to actions that happened and ended before the present time.

The **be** verb has two past tense forms, **was** and **were**. First and third person singular use **was**. We use the contraction **wasn't** instead of **was not** in spoken English.

1. I **was** at home yesterday. I **wasn't** at work.
2. It **was** a fun party. It **wasn't** boring at all.
3. He **was** sad all day. He **wasn't** happy.
4. She **was** a good teacher. She **wasn't** strict.

All plural forms and second person singular use **were** and **were not**. We use the contraction **weren't** instead of **were not** in spoken English.

1. You **were** right. You **weren't** wrong.
2. They **were** late. They **weren't** on time.
3. We **were** happy with the food. We **weren't** disappointed.
4. You **were** so noisy. You **weren't** very quiet!

Past tense verbs usually end with an **-ed** ending but only for affirmative sentences. For questions and negative statements we use **did** to express the past. See below.

- (Q) Where **did** you work?  
(A) I **worked** in an office.  
(N) I **did** not work in the city.

There are three ways to pronounce the **-ed** ending.

**1. -ed = /t/** Verbs ending with a non-voiced sound such as the following: -sh, -ch, -p, -k, -s, -t.

1. I washed the dishes.
2. I walked to work.
3. I scratched the dog's ear.
4. I popped the popcorn.

**2. -ed = /d/** Verbs ending with voiced sound such as the following: -n, -y, -v, -m.

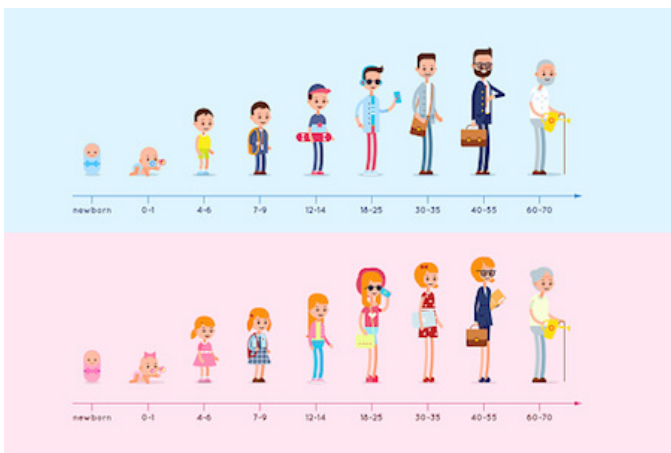
1. I cleaned the room.
2. I enjoyed the movie.
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**3. -ed = /ɪd/** Verbs ending with -d or -t.

1. I wanted to go.
2. I decided to stay.
3. I needed to sleep.
4. I started my homework.

**Negative** The negative form of a verb in the past tense uses **did not** and **didn't**.

1. I **did not** work.
2. I **didn't** sleep much.
3. We **did not** fly kites at the beach.
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## Grammar Talks 2-08 | Transitive Verbs

## Fruity Fans

Meg talks about eating right and the foods she loves to eat to keep herself healthy and fit.

**Todd:** So Meg, you \_\_\_\_\_ like a healthy person. Do you eat lots of fruits and vegetables?

**Meg:** I do eat lots of fruits and vegetables, especially fruit. I love to eat fruit because it's so sweet.

**Todd:** Yeah? What fruits do you like?

**Meg:** I love \_\_\_\_\_ because they're so healthy for you. And so usually, in the morning for breakfast, \_\_\_\_\_ a banana. I also love blueberries. Blueberries are my favorite fruit. But sometimes, they're \_\_\_\_\_ so I can't often eat blueberries.

**Todd:** Oh, I agree. Blueberries are so good. I \_\_\_\_\_ blueberries in oatmeal.

**Meg:** That's a good idea. I love to have blueberries in **muffins**.

**Todd:** Oh, that's nice. Well, you bake. Do you \_\_\_\_\_ blueberry muffins?

**Meg:** I do bake blueberry muffins, and also blueberry bread, blueberry pancakes, many blueberry things.

**Todd:** Wow. That's great. So are there any fruits you \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Meg:** I don't like kiwi actually because the **flavor** is okay but the fruits is too soft. So \_\_\_\_\_, I don't want to eat kiwi.

**Todd:** Oh well, I love kiwi. I love kiwi and bananas. It's very good.

**Meg:** Hmm, sounds okay but maybe I'll just have the banana.

**Todd:** So what about vegetables? Are you a person who eats lots of salad?

**Meg:** I don't \_\_\_\_\_ of salad but I do like to eat vegetables with my meals, usually lunch and dinner.

**Todd:** So you cook vegetables.

**Meg:** I \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables or I eat vegetables fresh. For example, usually with my lunch, I'll \_\_\_\_\_ a cucumber, and \_\_\_\_\_ some salt or pepper on the cucumber and eat with my lunch.

**Todd:** Oh great. I love **vegetable sticks**, so I love carrot sticks, cucumber sticks, radish sticks. It's very good.

**Meg:** Do you like to **dip** vegetable sticks into any dressing?



## Quiz

1) Who eats blueberries with oatmeal?

- a) Todd
- b) Meg

2) Meg puts blueberries in \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) muffins
- b) pancakes
- c) smoothies

3) Meg does not like \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Oranges
- b) Pineapple
- c) Kiwi

4) She eats vegetable \_\_\_\_\_ for lunch.

- a) salad
- b) sticks
- c) soup

5) She likes to \_\_\_\_\_ broccoli.

- a) fry
- b) boil
- c) roast

## Grammar Challenge

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

love	expensive	bake	look
cut up	have	eat a lot	don't like
bananas	put	cook	usually

## Speaking Challenge

Match the answers with the questions.

- 1) What do you do in the morning?
- 2) What do you do in the afternoon?
- 3) What do you do in the evening?
- 4) What do you do on the weekend?
- 5) What sports do you play?

- ( ) I get up. I eat breakfast, and I clean the house.  
 ( ) I play soccer and I play golf.  
 ( ) I eat dinner, I watch TV, and I post messages online.  
 ( ) I prepare lessons and I teach classes.  
 ( ) I go hiking or I buy my food for week.

**What about you?** Share your answers to the questions.

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## Grammar

### Transitive Verbs

**Point 1:** Transitive verbs are verbs that have an object -- a noun or pronoun -- after the verb.

1. I bought some clothes online.
2. I made pancakes for breakfast.
3. He sold his car for 10 dollars.
4. She speaks Italian fluently.

**Point 2:** Intransitive verbs are verbs that do not need an object.

1. I work at a store downtown.
2. I live in the city.
3. I exercise every morning.
4. I usually sleep three hours a night.

**Point 3:** Once the object is mentioned, the speaker usually uses a pronoun and not the noun.

1. What did you buy at the mall?
2. I bought a new sweater?
3. Where did you buy **it**?
4. I got **it** at the new shop by the cafe.

**Point 4:** We often use a general word after **What** when asking about the object of a sentence.

1. What **sports** did you play as a kid?
2. I played **baseball**.
3. What **movie** did you watch last night?
4. I watched **the new Star Wars**.
5. What **dishes** can you cook?
6. I can cook **soup and stews**.

**Todd:** I do but it's not healthy, right?

**Meg:** No.

**Todd:** But yeah, I love the dressing like the ranch dressing with carrot sticks or the ranch dressing with cucumber sticks. It's very nice.

**Meg:** Yeah. It's pretty delicious. But you're right. Not so healthy.

**Todd:** No. So what vegetables do you cook?

**Meg:** Sometimes I cook broccoli. I actually like to roast broccoli, which is when you put broccoli into the oven and cook it a few minutes. So it's really delicious. You can add some salt or seasonings and it's easy to make. You can cook some meat or rice while the broccoli is in the oven and then it's ready for your dinner.

**Todd:** That's great. Yeah. You see some vegetables like on a kebab that are roasted. I guess onions are roasted, peppers are roasted.

**Meg:** Right, right.

**Todd:** Do you roast other vegetables **besides** broccoli?

**Meg:** Sometimes tomatoes, and sometimes potatoes although, it's that a vegetable.

**Todd:** It is but it's not a very healthy vegetable.

**Meg:** So maybe I shouldn't eat potatoes.

**Todd:** I love potatoes though. So you roast vegetables, do you cook vegetables any other way? Do you boil vegetables or fry vegetables?

**Meg:** Sometimes I boil vegetables. For example, I like to boil carrots because they're soft and you can add some spices again to have some flavor when you eat carrots with your meal.

**Todd:** Yeah. Actually, I love carrots but I only like raw carrots.

**Meg:** Oh really?

**Todd:** And I hate cooked carrots.

**Meg:** Oh well, I'll try to remember that if ever you **come over for dinner**.

**Todd:** Yeah. Carrots sticks please.

**Meg:** Okay.





Grammar Talks 2-08 | Transitive Verbs

## Fruity Fans

Meg talks about eating right and the foods she loves to eat to keep herself healthy and fit.

**Todd:** So Meg, you **look** like a healthy person. Do you eat lots of fruits and vegetables?

**Meg:** I do eat lots of fruits and vegetables, especially fruit. I love to eat fruit because it's so sweet.

**Todd:** Yeah? What fruits do you like?

**Meg:** I love **bananas** because they're so healthy for you. And so usually, in the morning for breakfast, I'll **have** a banana. I also love blueberries. Blueberries are my favorite fruit. But sometimes, they're **expensive** so I can't often eat blueberries.

**Todd:** Oh, I agree. Blueberries are so good. I **love** blueberries in oatmeal.

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**Todd:** So what about vegetables? Are you a person who eats lots of salad?

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**Todd:** Yeah. Carrots sticks please.

**Meg:** Okay.







Grammar Talks 2-09 | Stative Verbs

## What looks good? What tastes good?

Two people talk about things they like using stative verbs.

**Todd:** Hey, Darcy. Let's talk about stative verbs.

**Darcy:** Okay.

**Todd:** So I will ask you five questions or questions about stative verbs and you answer them.

**Darcy:** Sure.

**Todd:** Okay. First, what smells good?

**Darcy:** Sweet things smell good.

**Todd:** Yes, that's true. I think fresh coffee smells good. I love fresh coffee.

**Darcy:** I hate the smell of \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Todd:** Oh, really? It \_\_\_\_\_ good for you?

**Darcy:** No, it's so like bitter.

**Todd:** Oh, really? Oh, wow. I think it smells \_\_\_\_\_. You don't think it smells good.

**Darcy:** No. I \_\_\_\_\_ chocolate smells good.

**Todd:** Okay. Okay, there we go. Alright. So next, what feels good?

**Darcy:** A hot bath \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Todd:** That's true. A hot bath feels really good. I think a warm sweater on a cold \_\_\_\_\_ really good. Like right after the sweater comes from the dryer, it feels \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Darcy:** Yes, I love that warm feeling you get when it comes out.

**Todd:** It's so nice. Also, puppies. Puppies \_\_\_\_\_ nice, right, when you pet puppies?

**Darcy:** Yeah, I like the \_\_\_\_\_. They feel really nice.

**Todd:** They do. They feel really, really nice. Okay. So now, how about taste? What foods taste really good?

**Darcy:** Um, I think spicy \_\_\_\_\_ really good.

**Todd:** Oh, really?

**Darcy:** Yes, I love... Like Thai food tastes really good because



## Quiz

- 1) Who is good at saving money?
  - a) She is.
  - b) He is.
  - c) Neither of them.
- 2) Who wastes a lot of money on food?
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## Grammar Challenge

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- |           |              |               |             |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| think hot | feel really  | feels good    | fluffy ones |
| a kick on | fresh coffee | doesn't smell | day feels   |
| so good   | really nice  | food tastes   | does taste  |

## Speaking Challenge

Match the answers with the questions.

- 1) What tastes good?
- 2) What sounds fun?
- 3) What looks dangerous?
- 4) What smells good?
- 5) What feels food?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Living on an island sounds fun.  
 ( ) Fresh baked bread smells good.  
 ( ) A warm cotton sweater on a cold day feels good.  
 ( ) Tomato soup smells tastes good.  
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**What about you?** Share your answers to the questions.

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it can clear your sinuses and it just gives you like \_\_\_\_\_ your tongue.

**Todd:** That's true. It \_\_\_\_\_ good. I have a sweet tooth so ice cream tastes really good. I love the taste of ice cream. Also, I love pizza, so pizza tastes good.

**Darcy:** That's because cheese taste the best.

**Todd:** That's right.

**Darcy:** Something nice and melty.

**Todd:** That's true. How about foods that don't taste good? What food doesn't taste good?

**Darcy:** Natto definitely does not taste good.

**Todd:** So natto is a Japanese food that's bitter, right, so it tastes bitter?

**Darcy:** Yeah.

**Todd:** That's true. I think... Actually, pineapple doesn't taste good.

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**Darcy:** I love pineapple on pizza. It gives it that sweet flavor.

**Todd:** True, so true. Okay. So we've done tastes, we've done smells, uh, feel. Okay. Now how about look? So who looks good? Who looks beautiful? What famous person looks gorgeous?

**Darcy:** I think anyone that's over six feet tall looks gorgeous.

**Todd:** So everybody in the NBA looks gorgeous.

**Darcy:** Between 6' and 6'5" looks good.

**Todd:** Really?! Oh, man. I'm bombed. I'm 5'10". I'm too short.

**Darcy:** Just a little. I always notice, like my eyes peels to people that are about six feet tall. I'm like, "Oh, they look nice. They look good."

**Todd:** So tall people look good, they look handsome.

**Darcy:** Yes, I think so.

**Todd:** How about celebrities? Any celebrities that looks beautiful, over six feet tall?

**Darcy:** I don't know how tall they are. They all look tall in the movies.

**Todd:** Right.

**Darcy:** Tom Cruise looks handsome but he is not actually that tall.

**Todd:** No, he's not six feet.

**Darcy:** He looks taller in the movies.

**Todd:** Right. That's true. All actors look taller in movies. Okay. So then we have one more and that would be, what sounds fun? So when you think of an activity, something you want to try, what looks fun or sounds fun?

**Darcy:** I think like a big musical festival sounds fun. Like going out to a dance party sounds really fun.

## Grammar

### Stative Verbs

**Point 1:** Stative verbs express feelings and opinions. They are followed by an adjective.

1. The party **sounds** fun.
2. This soup **smells** delicious.
3. This test **sounds** hard.
4. This pasta **tastes** great!
5. She **feels** sad today!

**Point 2:** Stative verbs use verbs about the five senses: touch, sight, taste, smell, and sound.

1. That **sounds** difficult.
2. This book **looks** interesting.
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5. This milk **smells** old.

**Point 3:** Stative verbs are special because the object is an adjective, not a noun or pronoun, like in transitive verbs.

- (A) **Can you make vegetable curry? (Transitive)**
- (B) No, it looks difficult. (Stative)
- (B) But, I eat it all the time. (Transitive)
- (A) **Yeah, it smells and tastes great. (Stative)**
- (A) **I can teach you how to make it. (Transitive)**
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**Point 4:** Stative verbs **look** and **sound** often show a prediction for a future opinion about something.

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**Point 5:** Stative verbs often can be replaced with a Be verb and keep the same meaning.

- This record **sounds** old.
- This record **is** old.
- I **feel** sick.
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**Todd:** Oh, that sounds fun. I think bicycle trips sound fun. So you do a bicycle trip across country for maybe one week or two weeks.

**Darcy:** That sounds not fun. That sounds very tiring and exhausting.

**Todd:** Oh, really? I think that sounds energizing and exciting, and adventurous and healthy.

**Darcy:** It sounds like I need to take a nap and take a hot bath to restore myself.

**Todd:** Well, we definitely have different interests.

**Darcy:** Yes!





Grammar Talks 2-09 | Stative Verbs

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