

IBPS PO Prelims 2026

Past Tenses - Practice Set 2 of 5

FREE SET

Focus: Past Tenses (All Types)

Time: 20 Minutes

Total: 25 Questions

Simple Past - 6 Qs

Past Continuous - 5 Qs

Past Perfect - 5 Qs

Past Perfect Continuous - 4 Qs

Mixed Past - 5 Qs

Instructions

- ✓ This is the FREE practice set (Set 2 of 5) focusing on PAST TENSES for IBPS PO Prelims 2026
- ✓ Each sentence has ONE grammatical error related to Past Tenses
- ✓ Each question carries 1 mark (No negative marking for practice)
- ✓ Try to complete all 25 questions within 20 minutes to simulate exam conditions
- ✓ After attempting all questions, check answers with detailed explanations
- ✓ Use the Performance Tracker to analyze your accuracy and identify weak areas
- ✓ ★ **Complete all 5 sets to master Tenses for IBPS PO!**

SECTION A: Simple Past Tense Errors

6 Questions

Directions: Each sentence below contains an error related to Simple Past Tense. Identify the part (A, B, C, or D) that contains the error. If no error, mark E.

Question 1

Easy



FREE PRACTICE SET

(A) I (B) meet (C) the Prime Minister (D) yesterday. (E) No error

- ☐ A. I
- ☐ B. meet
- ☐ C. the Prime Minister
- ☐ D. yesterday
- ☐ E. No error

Question 2

Medium

(A) The police (B) was called (C) to control (D) the violent crowd. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The police
- ☐ B. was called
- ☐ C. to control
- ☐ D. the violent crowd
- ☐ E. No error

Question 3

Hard

(A) He (B) was knowing (C) the answer (D) to the question. (E) No error

- ☐ A. He
- ☐ B. was knowing
- ☐ C. the answer
- ☐ D. to the question
- ☐ E. No error

Question 4**Medium****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) She (B) did not went (C) to the office (D) yesterday. (E) No error

- ☐ A. She
- ☐ B. did not went
- ☐ C. to the office
- ☐ D. yesterday
- ☐ E. No error

Question 5**Hard**

(A) The committee (B) were divided (C) on the issue (D) of funding. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The committee
- ☐ B. were divided
- ☐ C. on the issue
- ☐ D. of funding
- ☐ E. No error

Question 6**Medium**

(A) He (B) used to played (C) cricket (D) when he was young. (E) No error

- ☐ A. He
- ☐ B. used to played
- ☐ C. cricket
- ☐ D. when he was young
- ☐ E. No error

Directions: Each sentence below contains an error related to Past Continuous Tense. Identify the part (A, B, C, or D) that contains the error. If no error, mark E.

  **FREE PRACTICE SET**

Question 7

Medium

(A) The children (B) was playing (C) in the park (D) when it started raining. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The children
- ☐ B. was playing
- ☐ C. in the park
- ☐ D. when it started raining
- ☐ E. No error

Question 8

Hard

(A) While I (B) was travel (C) to Mumbai, (D) I met my old friend. (E) No error

- ☐ A. While I
- ☐ B. was travel
- ☐ C. to Mumbai,
- ☐ D. I met my old friend
- ☐ E. No error

Question 9

Medium

(A) She (B) was reading (C) a book (D) when the phone was ringing. (E) No error

- ☐ A. She
- ☐ B. was reading
- ☐ C. a book
- ☐ D. when the phone was ringing
- ☐ E. No error

Question 10**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) The students (B) were waiting (C) for the bus (D) since 8 AM. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The students
- ☐ B. were waiting
- ☐ C. for the bus
- ☐ D. since 8 AM
- ☐ E. No error

Question 11**Easy**

(A) He (B) was owning (C) a luxury car (D) when he was in Dubai. (E) No error

- ☐ A. He
- ☐ B. was owning
- ☐ C. a luxury car
- ☐ D. when he was in Dubai
- ☐ E. No error

SECTION C: Past Perfect Tense Errors**5 Questions**

Directions: Each sentence below contains an error related to Past Perfect Tense. Identify the part (A, B, C, or D) that contains the error. If no error, mark E.

Question 12**Medium****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) When I reached (B) the station, (C) the train already left (D) before my arrival. (E) No error

- ☐ A. When I reached
- ☐ B. the station,
- ☐ C. the train already left
- ☐ D. before my arrival
- ☐ E. No error

Question 13**Hard**

(A) He (B) had gone (C) to the party (D) last night. (E) No error

- ☐ A. He
- ☐ B. had gone
- ☐ C. to the party
- ☐ D. last night
- ☐ E. No error

Question 14**Hard**

(A) No sooner (B) did the bell ring (C) than the students (D) had rushed out. (E) No error

- ☐ A. No sooner
- ☐ B. did the bell ring
- ☐ C. than the students
- ☐ D. had rushed out
- ☐ E. No error

Question 15**Medium****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) After he (B) had finished (C) his homework, (D) he was watching TV. (E) No error

- ☐ A. After he
- ☐ B. had finished
- ☐ C. his homework,
- ☐ D. he was watching TV
- ☐ E. No error

Question 16**Hard**

(A) The patient (B) had died (C) before the doctor (D) had arrived. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The patient
- ☐ B. had died
- ☐ C. before the doctor
- ☐ D. had arrived
- ☐ E. No error

SECTION D: Past Perfect Continuous Tense Errors**4 Questions**

Directions: Each sentence below contains an error related to Past Perfect Continuous Tense. Identify the part (A, B, C, or D) that contains the error. If no error, mark E.

Question 17**Medium****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) He (B) had been waiting (C) for two hours (D) before the bus had arrived. (E) No error

- ☐ A. He
- ☐ B. had been waiting
- ☐ C. for two hours
- ☐ D. before the bus had arrived
- ☐ E. No error

Question 18**Hard**

(A) She (B) had been working (C) in this company (D) since five years before she resigned.
(E) No error

- ☐ A. She
- ☐ B. had been working
- ☐ C. in this company
- ☐ D. since five years before she resigned
- ☐ E. No error

Question 19**Medium**

(A) They (B) had been living (C) in Delhi (D) from 2010 to 2015. (E) No error

- ☐ A. They
- ☐ B. had been living
- ☐ C. in Delhi
- ☐ D. from 2010 to 2015
- ☐ E. No error

Question 20**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) He (B) had been trying (C) to clear the exam (D) since five attempts (E) No error

- ☐ A. He
- ☐ B. had been trying
- ☐ C. to clear the exam
- ☐ D. since five attempts
- ☐ E. No error

SECTION E: Mixed Past Tenses**5 Questions**

Directions: Each sentence below contains an error related to Past Tenses (mixed types). Identify the part (A, B, C, or D) that contains the error. If no error, mark E.

Question 21**Hard**

(A) I (B) have met (C) him (D) last week (E) No error

- ☐ A. I
- ☐ B. have met
- ☐ C. him
- ☐ D. last week
- ☐ E. No error

Question 22**Medium**  **FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) He (B) told that (C) he (D) will come tomorrow. (E) No error

- ☐ A. He
- ☐ B. told that
- ☐ C. he
- ☐ D. will come tomorrow
- ☐ E. No error

Question 23**Hard**

(A) Scarcely had I (B) reached the office (C) when the meeting (D) had started. (E) No error

- ☐ A. Scarcely had I
- ☐ B. reached the office
- ☐ C. when the meeting
- ☐ D. had started
- ☐ E. No error

Question 24**Medium**

(A) It was (B) the first time (C) I had visited (D) the USA. (E) No error

- ☐ A. It was
- ☐ B. the first time
- ☐ C. I had visited
- ☐ D. the USA
- ☐ E. No error



(A) I wish (B) I (C) was (D) a millionaire. (E) No error

- ☐ A. I wish
- ☐ B. I
- ☐ C. was
- ☐ D. a millionaire
- ☐ E. No error

FREE PRACTICE SET



Answer Key with Detailed Explanations

SECTION A: Simple Past Tense Errors

Q1. Answer: B. meet

✓ B

"Yesterday" indicates past time → Simple Past → "met".

📌 Time markers (yesterday, last, ago) → Simple Past tense.

Q2. Answer: B. was called

✓ B

"Police" is always plural → "were called".

📌 Police, People, Cattle → Always plural.

Q3. Answer: B. was knowing

✓ B

"Know" is stative → not used in continuous → "knew".

📌 Stative verbs (know, believe, understand) no continuous form.

Q4. Answer: B. did not went

✓ B

After "did not", use base form of verb → "go".

📌 Did/Didn't + base form of verb (V1).

Q5. Answer: B. were divided

✓ B

FREE PRACTICE SET

Committee members had different opinions → plural sense → "was divided" is correct here (showing unity).

📌 Collective nouns: singular when united, plural when members act individually.

Q6. Answer: B. used to played

✓ B

"Used to" is followed by base form → "used to play".

📌 Used to + V1 (base form), not V2 or V3.

SECTION B: Past Continuous Tense Errors

Q7. Answer: B. was playing

✓ B

"Children" is plural → "were playing".

📌 Plural subject → were + V-ing.

Q8. Answer: B. was travel

✓ B

Past Continuous requires V-ing form → "was travelling".

📌 Was/Were + V-ing (present participle).

Q9. Answer: D. when the phone was ringing

✓ D

"When" introduces a short action → Simple Past → "rang".

📌 When + Simple Past (short action interrupting longer action).

Q10. Answer: D. since 8 AM

  **FREE PRACTICE SET**

 **D**

"Since" is used with Present Perfect, not Past Continuous → remove "since".

 Past Continuous is not used with since/for for duration.

Q11. Answer: B. was owning

 **B**

"Own" is stative (possession) → not continuous → "owned".

 Verbs of possession (own, have, belong) no continuous form.

SECTION C: Past Perfect Tense Errors

Q12. Answer: C. the train already left

 **C**

Earlier action (train left before reaching) → Past Perfect → "had already left".

 Past Perfect for the earlier of two past actions.

Q13. Answer: B. had gone

 **B**

"Last night" specific past time → Simple Past → "went". Past Perfect unnecessary.

 Past Perfect not used with specific past time markers.

Q14. Answer: D. had rushed out

 **D**

"No sooner...than" structure: than + Simple Past → "rushed out".

 No sooner + Past Perfect, than + Simple Past.

Q15. Answer: D. he was watching TV

  **FREE PRACTICE SET**

 **D**

Sequence: finished homework first (Past Perfect), then watched TV (Simple Past)
→ "he watched TV".

 After + Past Perfect, use Simple Past for next action.

Q16. Answer: D. had arrived

 **D**

"Before" clause takes Simple Past, not Past Perfect → "arrived".

 Before + Simple Past, Past Perfect in main clause.

SECTION D: Past Perfect Continuous Tense Errors

Q17. Answer: D. before the bus had arrived

 **D**

"Before" clause takes Simple Past → "arrived".

 Before + Simple Past, Past Perfect Continuous in main clause.

Q18. Answer: D. since five years

 **D**

"Five years" is duration → use "for", not "since".

 For + duration, Since + specific point in time.

Q19. Answer: D. from 2010 to 2015

 **D**

Time period from past to past → Past Perfect Continuous correct with "from...to".
No error.



Past Perfect Continuous can be used with from...to for past periods.



FREE PRACTICE SET

Q20. Answer: D. since five attempts

D

"Five attempts" is number/count → use "for" → "for five attempts".



Since is for time points, not for counts or numbers.

SECTION E: Mixed Past Tenses

Q21. Answer: B. have met

B

"Last week" specific past time → Simple Past → "met".



Present Perfect + past time marker = incorrect.

Q22. Answer: D. will come tomorrow

D

Reporting verb "told" (past) → reported speech → "would come".



Past reporting verb → will changes to would.

Q23. Answer: D. had started

D

"Scarcely...when" structure: when + Simple Past → "started".



Scarcely/Hardly + Past Perfect, when + Simple Past.

Q24. Answer: E. No error

E

"It was the first time" is correctly followed by Past Perfect.

📌 It was the first time + Past Perfect.

🎓 🎓 FREE PRACTICE SET

Q25. Answer: C. was

✅ C

After "wish" for unreal present → use "were" for all subjects → "I were".

📌 Wish + subject + were (subjunctive mood for unreal situations).

📊 Performance Tracker - IBPS PO Set 2 (Past Tenses)

Section	Total	Correct	Wrong	Accuracy %
Section A (Simple Past)	6	___	___	___%
Section B (Past Continuous)	5	___	___	___%
Section C (Past Perfect)	5	___	___	___%
Section D (Past Perfect Continuous)	4	___	___	___%
Section E (Mixed Past)	5	___	___	___%
TOTAL	25	___	___	___%

📊 Score Interpretation (IBPS PO Past Tenses):

- **22-25 correct:** Excellent! Past tenses mastered for IBPS PO.
- **18-21 correct:** Good - review Past Perfect and stative verbs.
- **14-17 correct:** Average - need more practice on sequence of tenses.
- **Below 14:** Need significant improvement - review Past Perfect rules.

 **Simple Past vs Past Perfect (High Priority):** Past Perfect for the earlier action when two past actions are mentioned. Always identify which action   **FREE PRACTICE SET**

 **Stative Verbs in Past:** Know, believe, understand, own, belong - NEVER use in Past Continuous. Use Simple Past instead.

 **Sequence of Tenses (Trap Area):** After/Before/When + Past Perfect + Simple Past OR Simple Past + after/before + Past Perfect

 **Inversion Structures (IBPS PO Favourite):** No sooner...than, Scarcely...when, Hardly...when - Learn the correct tense pattern.

 **Reported Speech with Past:** Past reporting verb (told/said) → will → would, can → could, may → might

 **Used to Structure:** Used to + V1 (base form), not used to + V2 or V3

 **Subjunctive Mood:** Wish + were (not was) for unreal present situations

IBPS PO Tenses Series Progress

  **Set 1 (Free):** Present Tenses - Completed

  **Set 2 (Free - This Set):** Past Tenses - Completed

  **Set 3 (Free):** Future Tenses - Coming Next

  **Set 4 (Premium):** Mixed Tenses - Advanced Level

  **Set 5 (Premium):** Error Detection - Advanced Level

 **Next: Set 3 - Future Tenses (IBPS PO Level)**

 **IBPS PO Target:** Past Tenses carry 6-8 questions in Prelims. Mastery of Past Perfect is crucial for high scores!

IBPS PO Prelims 2026 - Past Tenses Practice Set 2 (Free - 25 Questions)

 This is FREE Set 2 from Ignite Exams - Past Tenses Complete Coverage

 Download Set 3 (Future Tenses) when available |  support@igniteexams.com

FREE PRACTICE SET