

SBI PO Prelims 2026

Past Tenses - Practice Set 2 of 5

FREE SET

Focus: Past Tenses (All Types - High Difficulty)

Time: 22 Minutes

Total: 25 Questions

Simple Past - 5 Qs

Past Continuous - 5 Qs

Past Perfect - 5 Qs

Past Perfect Continuous - 5 Qs

Mixed Past - 5 Qs

Instructions

- ✓ This is the FREE practice set (Set 2 of 5) focusing on PAST TENSES for SBI 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 22 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 SBI PO!**

SECTION A: Simple Past Tense (High Difficulty)

5 Questions

Directions: Each sentence 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**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) The State Bank of India (B) have announced (C) a reduction in home loan rates (D) last quarter. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The State Bank of India
- ☐ B. have announced
- ☐ C. a reduction in home loan rates
- ☐ D. last quarter
- ☐ E. No error

Question 2**Hard**

(A) The police (B) was called (C) to control (D) the protest outside the bank. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The police
- ☐ B. was called
- ☐ C. to control
- ☐ D. the protest outside the bank
- ☐ E. No error

Question 3**Hard**

(A) The finance minister (B) was knowing (C) about the economic crisis (D) months before it happened. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The finance minister
- ☐ B. was knowing
- ☐ C. about the economic crisis
- ☐ D. months before it happened
- ☐ E. No error

Question 4**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) The committee members (B) did not approved (C) the merger proposal (D) in the last meeting. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The committee members
- ☐ B. did not approved
- ☐ C. the merger proposal
- ☐ D. in the last meeting
- ☐ E. No error

Question 5**Hard**

(A) The RBI governor (B) used to addressed (C) the media every month (D) before the pandemic. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The RBI governor
- ☐ B. used to addressed
- ☐ C. the media every month
- ☐ D. before the pandemic
- ☐ E. No error

SECTION B: Past Continuous Tense (High Difficulty)**5 Questions**

Directions: Each sentence 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.

Question 6**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) The customers (B) was waiting (C) outside the bank (D) when the robbery occurred. (E)

No error

- ☐ A. The customers
- ☐ B. was waiting
- ☐ C. outside the bank
- ☐ D. when the robbery occurred
- ☐ E. No error

Question 7**Hard**

(A) While the auditor (B) was review (C) the financial statements, (D) he discovered several discrepancies. (E) No error

- ☐ A. While the auditor
- ☐ B. was review
- ☐ C. the financial statements,
- ☐ D. he discovered several discrepancies
- ☐ E. No error

Question 8**Hard**

(A) She (B) was preparing (C) the annual report (D) when the manager was calling her. (E)

No error

- ☐ A. She
- ☐ B. was preparing
- ☐ C. the annual report
- ☐ D. when the manager was calling her
- ☐ E. No error

Question 9**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) The stock market (B) was falling (C) sharply (D) since early morning. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The stock market
- ☐ B. was falling
- ☐ C. sharply
- ☐ D. since early morning
- ☐ E. No error

Question 10**Hard**

(A) The bank employees (B) were considering (C) to go on strike (D) when the management intervened. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The bank employees
- ☐ B. were considering
- ☐ C. to go on strike
- ☐ D. when the management intervened
- ☐ E. No error

SECTION C: Past Perfect Tense (High Difficulty)**5 Questions**

Directions: Each sentence 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 11**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) When the CEO arrived (B) at the meeting, (C) the board members already started (D) the discussion. (E) No error

- ☐ A. When the CEO arrived
- ☐ B. at the meeting,
- ☐ C. the board members already started
- ☐ D. the discussion
- ☐ E. No error

Question 12**Hard**

(A) He (B) had resigned (C) from his position (D) last year. (E) No error

- ☐ A. He
- ☐ B. had resigned
- ☐ C. from his position
- ☐ D. last year
- ☐ E. No error

Question 13**Hard**

(A) No sooner (B) did the chairman announce (C) the bonus than the employees (D) had cheered loudly. (E) No error

- ☐ A. No sooner
- ☐ B. did the chairman announce
- ☐ C. the bonus than the employees
- ☐ D. had cheered loudly
- ☐ E. No error

Question 14**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) After the loan (B) had been sanctioned, (C) the borrower was receiving (D) the amount within a week. (E) No error

- ☐ A. After the loan
- ☐ B. had been sanctioned,
- ☐ C. the borrower was receiving
- ☐ D. the amount within a week
- ☐ E. No error

Question 15**Hard**

(A) The investor (B) had lost (C) a significant amount (D) before the market recovered. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The investor
- ☐ B. had lost
- ☐ C. a significant amount
- ☐ D. before the market recovered
- ☐ E. No error

SECTION D: Past Perfect Continuous Tense (High Difficulty)**5 Questions**

Directions: Each sentence 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 16**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

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

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

Question 17**Hard**

(A) The employees (B) had been demanding (C) a salary revision (D) since five months before the strike. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The employees
- ☐ B. had been demanding
- ☐ C. a salary revision
- ☐ D. since five months before the strike
- ☐ E. No error

Question 18**Hard**

(A) The company (B) had been operating (C) at a loss (D) from 2018 to 2022. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The company
- ☐ B. had been operating
- ☐ C. at a loss
- ☐ D. from 2018 to 2022
- ☐ E. No error

Question 19**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

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

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

Question 20**Hard**

(A) The bank (B) had been implementing (C) the new policy (D) for six months before it showed results. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The bank
- ☐ B. had been implementing
- ☐ C. the new policy
- ☐ D. for six months before it showed results
- ☐ E. No error

SECTION E: Mixed Past Tenses (Very High Difficulty)**5 Questions**

Directions: Each sentence 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****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) The auditor (B) has found (C) several irregularities (D) in the last audit. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The auditor
- ☐ B. has found
- ☐ C. several irregularities
- ☐ D. in the last audit
- ☐ E. No error

Question 22**Hard**

(A) The CEO (B) told that (C) the company (D) will launch a new product next year. (E) No error

- ☐ A. The CEO
- ☐ B. told that
- ☐ C. the company
- ☐ D. will launch a new product next year
- ☐ E. No error

Question 23**Hard**

(A) Hardly had the minister (B) finished his speech (C) than the opposition members (D) started protesting. (E) No error

- ☐ A. Hardly had the minister
- ☐ B. finished his speech
- ☐ C. than the opposition members
- ☐ D. started protesting
- ☐ E. No error

Question 24**Hard****FREE PRACTICE SET**

(A) It was (B) the first time (C) I have visited (D) the SBI headquarters. (E) No error

- ☐ A. It was
- ☐ B. the first time
- ☐ C. I have visited
- ☐ D. the SBI headquarters
- ☐ E. No error

Question 25**Hard**

(A) I wish (B) I (C) was (D) the branch manager. (E) No error

- ☐ A. I wish
- ☐ B. I
- ☐ C. was
- ☐ D. the branch manager
- ☐ E. No error



Answer Key with Detailed Explanations

SECTION A: Simple Past Tense Errors

Q1. Answer: B. have announced

 **B**

"SBI" as an institution takes singular verb → "has announced". Also "last quarter" is specific past time → Simple Past is correct.

 Organizations/Institutions as single entities take singular verbs.

Q2. Answer: B. was called

 **B**

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

 Police, People, Cattle → Always plural.

Q3. Answer: B. was knowing

 **B**

"Know" is a stative verb → not used in continuous form → "knew".

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

Q4. Answer: B. did not approved

 **B**

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

 Did/Didn't + base form (V1), not V2 or V3.

Q5. Answer: B. used to addressed

✓ B

FREE PRACTICE SET

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

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

SECTION B: Past Continuous Tense Errors

Q6. Answer: B. was waiting

✓ B

"Customers" is plural → "were waiting".

📌 Plural subject → were + V-ing.

Q7. Answer: B. was review

✓ B

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

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

Q8. Answer: D. when the manager was calling her

✓ D

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

📌 When + Simple Past (interrupting action), Past Continuous (longer action).

Q9. Answer: D. since early morning

✓ D

"Since" is used with Perfect tenses, not Past Continuous → remove or change to Past Perfect Continuous.

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

Q10. Answer: C. to go on strike

  **FREE PRACTICE SET**

 **C**

After "considering", use gerund → "going".

 Consider + gerund (consider doing), not consider + infinitive.

SECTION C: Past Perfect Tense Errors

Q11. Answer: C. the board members already started

 **C**

Earlier action (started before CEO arrived) → Past Perfect → "had already started".

 Past Perfect for the earlier of two past actions.

Q12. Answer: B. had resigned

 **B**

"Last year" specific past time → Simple Past → "resigned". Past Perfect unnecessary.

 Past Perfect not used with specific past time markers.

Q13. Answer: D. had cheered loudly

 **D**

"No sooner...than" structure: than + Simple Past → "cheered".

 No sooner + Past Perfect, than + Simple Past.

Q14. Answer: C. the borrower was receiving

 **C**

Sequence: loan sanctioned first (Past Perfect), then received amount → Simple Past → "received".

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

  **FREE PRACTICE SET**

Q15. Answer: E. No error

 **E**

Past Perfect (had lost) + before + Simple Past (recovered) is correct.

 Past Perfect for completed action before another past action.

SECTION D: Past Perfect Continuous Tense Errors

Q16. Answer: D. before the bus had arrived

 **D**

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

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

Q17. Answer: D. since five months

 **D**

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

 For + duration, Since + specific point in time.

Q18. Answer: E. No error

 **E**

Past Perfect Continuous with "from...to" for past period is correct.

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

Q19. Answer: D. since three attempts

 **D**

"Three attempts" is number/count → use "for" → "for three attempts".

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

  **FREE PRACTICE SET**

Q20. Answer: E. No error

 **E**

Past Perfect Continuous + for + duration + before + Simple Past is correct.

 Past Perfect Continuous for duration before another past action.

SECTION E: Mixed Past Tenses

Q21. Answer: B. has found

 **B**

"In the last audit" specific past time → Simple Past → "found".

 Present Perfect + past time marker = incorrect.

Q22. Answer: D. will launch

 **D**

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

 Past reporting verb → will changes to would.

Q23. Answer: C. than

 **C**

"Hardly...when" structure, not "Hardly...than". Use "when".

 Hardly/Scarcely + Past Perfect, when + Simple Past. No sooner...than.

Q24. Answer: C. I have visited

 **C**

"It was the first time" structure → Past Perfect → "I had visited".

📌 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 - SBI PO Set 2 (Past Tenses)

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

📊 Score Interpretation (SBI PO Past Tenses - High Difficulty):

- **22-25 correct:** Outstanding! Past tenses mastered for SBI PO.
- **18-21 correct:** Very Good - review Past Perfect and inversion structures.
- **14-17 correct:** Average - need more practice on sequence of tenses.
- **Below 14:** Need significant improvement - review Past Perfect rules and time clauses.

🎯 SBI PO Special Focus - Past Tenses Key Learning Points

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

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

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

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

 **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

 **Police/People/Cattle:** Always plural verbs

SBI 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 (SBI PO Level - High Difficulty)**

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

SBI PO Prelims 2026 - Past Tenses Practice Set 2 (Free - 25 Questions | High Difficulty)

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

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



FREE PRACTICE SET