

Teach Past tenses using songs

skyteach

Past Simple

Pre-intermediate+

Complete the gaps with the Past Simple form of the verbs in brackets. Listen and check.



music video

Discuss!

1. Why do you think the singer decided to set fire to the rain? What does it mean?
2. Find some lines to prove that these relationships were problematic.

Set Fire to the Rain (Adele)

I let it fall, my heart,
And as it fell you _____(rise) to claim it
It was dark and I was over
Until you _____(kiss) my lips and you _____(save) me
My hands, they're strong
But my knees _____(be) far too weak
To stand in your arms
Without falling to your feet
But there's a side to you
That I never _____(know), never _____
(know)
All the things you'd say
They _____(be) never true, never true
And the games you play
You would always win, always win

Chorus:

But I set fire to the rain
_____ (watch) it pour as I _____ (touch) your face
Well, it _____ (burn) while I _____ (cry)
'Cause I _____ (hear) it screaming
Out your name, Your name
When I lay with you
I _____ (can) stay there
Close my eyes
Feel you here forever

You and me together nothing gets better
'Cause there's a side to you
That I never _____ (know), never _____ (know)
All the things you'd say
They _____ (be) never true, never true
And the games you play
You would always win, always win

Chorus.

But I set fire to the rain
_____ (watch) it pour as I _____ (touch) your face
Well, it _____ (burn) while I _____ (cry)
'Cause I _____ (hear) it screaming
Out your name, Your name

I set fire to the rain
And I _____ (throw) us into the flames
Well, it _____ (feel) something _____ (die)
'Cause I _____ (know) that that was
The last time, the last time
Sometimes I wake up by the door,
That heart you _____ (catch) must be waiting for you
Even now when we're already over
I can't help myself from looking for you

Chorus.

Past Simple Elementary +

Listen and underline the verb you hear.



Discuss!

1. Do you have favourite places / cities / countries where your heart is?

Havana (Camila Cabello)

Chorus:

Havana, ooh na-na (ay)
Half of my heart is in Havana, ooh-na-na (ay, ay)
He *look / took* me back to East Atlanta, na-na-na Oh,
but my heart is in Havana (ay)

There's somethin' 'bout his manners (uh huh)
Havana, ooh na-na (uh)
He didn't *walk/talk* up with that "how you doin'?" (uh)(When he *came/come* in the room)
He *say / said* there's a lot of girls I can do with (uh)
(But I can't without you)
I *met / knew* him forever in a minute (hey)
(That summer night in June)
And papa *says / said* he got malo in him (uh)
He *got / gave* me feelin' like
Ooh-ooh-ooh, I knew it when I *met / let* him
I loved him when I *left / lacked* him
Got me feelin' like
Ooh-ooh-ooh, and then I had to tell him
I *have / had* to go, oh na-na-na-na-na

Chorus.

Jeffery
Just *graduate / graduated*, fresh on campus, mm

Fresh out East Atlanta with no manners, damn
Fresh out East Atlanta
Bump on her bumper like a traffic jam
Hey, I was quick to *pay / say* that girl like Uncle Sam
(here you go, ay)
Back it on me, shawty cravin' on me
Get to diggin' on me (on me)
She *waited / greeted* on me (then what?)
Shawty cakin' on me, got the bacon on me (wait up)
This is history in the makin' on me (on me)
Point blank, close range, that be
If it *lost / cost* a million, that's me (that's me)
I was gettin' mula, man they feel me

Chorus.

Take me back, back, back like
Ooh na-na, oh na-na-na (yeah, babe)
Take me back, back, back like
Ooh na-na, oh na-na-na (yea, yeah)

Past Simple Intermediate +

Complete the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in the Past Simple.

try seem spend hold need have tell know bleed have meet buy get play go



 *music video*

Discuss!

1. How did you spend time in summer when you were very young? What did you do with your friends?
2. Was that time the best in your life?

Summer of '69 (Bryan Adams)

I got my first real six-string
_____ it at the five-and-dime
_____ it 'til my fingers _____
Was the summer of sixty-nine
Me and some guys from school
_____ a band and we _____ real hard
Jimmy quit, Jody _____ married
I should've known we'd never get far

Oh, when I look back now
That summer _____ to last forever
And if I _____ the choice
Yeah, I'd always wanna be there
Those were the best days of my life

Ain't no use in complainin'
When you've got a job to do
_____ my evenings down at the drive-in
And that's when I _____ you, yeah
Standin' on your mama's porch
You _____ me that you'd wait forever
Oh, and when you _____ my hand
I _____ that it was now or never
Those were the best days of my life
Oh, yeah

Back in the summer of sixty-nine, oh
Man, we were killin' time, we were young and restless
We _____ to unwind
I guess nothin' can last forever, forever, no
Yeah
And now the times are changin'
Look at everything that's come and gone
Sometimes when I play that old six-string
I think about you, wonder what _____ wrong
Standin' on your mama's porch...

Past Continuous Pre-intermediate + (age 18+)

Listen to the song and correct the mistakes in some lines.



 *music video*

Champagne Supernova (Oasis)

How many special people change
How many lives were living strange
Where were you when were getting high?
Slowly walk down the hall
Faster than a cannon ball
Where were you when we were getting high?

Chorus:

Some day you will find me
Caught beneath the landslide
In a champagne supernova in the sky
Some day you will find me
Caught beneath the landslide
In a champagne supernova
A champagne supernova in the sky

Wake up the dawn and ask her why
A dreamer dreams she never dies
Wipe that tear away now from your eye
Slowly walk down the hall
Faster than a cannon ball
Where were you when we were getting high?

Chorus.

'Cause people believe that they're
Gonna get away for the summer
But you and I, we live and die
The world's still spinning round
We don't know why
Why, why, why, why

How many special people change
How many lives were living strange
Where were you when we were getting high?
Slowly walk down the hall
Faster than a cannon ball
Where were you when we were getting high?

Chorus.

Past Simple, used to and Past Perfect Intermediate+

Number the lines in the correct order in each paragraph. Then look at the highlighted phrases. What tenses are they and why are they used here?



 *music video*

Discuss!

1. When people break up is it better to be friends or cut each other off?

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Somebody That I Used to Know (Gotye)

___ Like when you said you felt so happy you could die

___ But felt so lonely in your company

___ Told myself that you were right for me

___ But that was love and it's an ache I still remember

1 Now and then I think of when we were together

___ Well you said that we **would still be friends**

___ But I'll admit that I was glad it was over

___ Like resignation to the end, always the end

1 You can get addicted to a certain kind of sadness

___ So when we found that we could not make sense

Chorus.

1 But you **didn't have to** cut me off

___ Have your friends collect your records and then change your number

___ And I don't even need your love

___ But you treat me like a stranger and that feels so rough

___ Make out like it never happened and that we were nothing

___ I guess that I don't need that though

___ No, you didn't have to stoop so low

___ Now you're just somebody that I **used to know** (3 times)

___ But had me believing it was always something that **I'd done**

1 Now and then I think of all the times you screwed me over

___ But I don't wanna live that way

___ You said that you could let it go

___ Reading into every word you say

___ And I wouldn't catch you hung up on somebody that you **used to know**

Chorus.

Past Simple, Present Perfect and Past Perfect Intermediate+

Listen and complete the gaps with the words you here.



Discuss!

1. Why do you think the singer has to say goodbye if he'd spend a lifetime with his lover?

Goodbye My Lover (James Blunt)

Did I disappoint you or let you down?
Should I be feeling guilty or let the judges frown?
'Cause I saw the end before we _____,
Yes I saw you _____ and I knew I _____
had won.
So I took what's mine by eternal right.
Took your soul out into the night.
It may be over but it won't stop there,
I am here for you if you'd only care.
You touched my heart you touched my soul.
You _____ my life and all my goals.
And love is blind and that I knew when,
My heart _____ by you.
I've kissed your lips and held your head.
Shared your dreams and shared your bed.
I know you well, I know your smell.
I've been addicted to you.

Chorus:

Goodbye my lover.
Goodbye my friend.
You have been the one.
You have been the one for me.

I am a dreamer but when I wake,
You can't break my spirit - it's my dreams you take.
And as you move on, remember me,
Remember us and all we _____
I've seen you cry, I've seen you smile.
I _____ you sleeping for a while.
I'd be the father of your child.
I'd spend a lifetime with you.
I know your fears and you know mine.
We _____ our doubts but now we're fine,
And I love you, I swear that's true.
I cannot live without you.

Chorus.

And I still hold your hand in mine.
In mine when I'm asleep.
And I will bear my soul in time,
When I'm kneeling at your feet.

Chorus.

Key:

Set Fire to the Rain (Adele)

I let it fall, my heart,
And as it fell you rose to claim it
It was dark and I was over
Until you kissed my lips and you saved me
My hands, they're strong
But my knees were far too weak
To stand in your arms
Without falling to your feet
But there's a side to you
That I never knew, never knew
All the things you'd say
They were never true, never true
And the games you play
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Chorus:

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Well, it burned while I cried
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Well, it felt something died
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The last time, the last time
Sometimes I wake up by the door,
That heart you caught must be waiting for you
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Chorus.

Havana (Camila Cabello)

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Half of my heart is in Havana, ooh-na-na (ay,
ay)
He took me back to East Atlanta, na-na-na
Oh, but my heart is in Havana (ay)

There's somethin' 'bout his manners (uh huh)
Havana, ooh na-na (uh)
He didn't walk up with that "how you
doin'?" (uh)
(When he came in the room)
He said there's a lot of girls I can do with (uh)
(But I can't without you)
I knew him forever in a minute (hey)
(That summer night in June)
And papa says he got malo in him (uh)
He got me feelin' like
Ooh-ooh-ooh, I knew it when I met him
I loved him when I left him
Got me feelin' like
Ooh-ooh-ooh, and then I had to tell him
I had to go, oh na-na-na-na-na

Chorus.

Jeffery
Just graduated, fresh on campus, mm
Fresh out East Atlanta with no manners,
damn
Fresh out East Atlanta
Bump on her bumper like a traffic jam
Hey, I was quick to pay that girl like Uncle
Sam (here you go, ay)
Back it on me, shawty cravin' on me
Get to diggin' on me (on me)
She waited on me (then what?)
Shawty cakin' on me, got the bacon on me
(wait up)
This is history in the makin' on me (on me)
Point blank, close range, that be
If it cost a million, that's me (that's me)
I was gettin' mula, man they feel me

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Key:

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Played it 'til my fingers bled
Was the summer of sixty-nine
Me and some guys from school
Had a band and we tried real hard
Jimmy quit, Jody got married
I should've known we'd never get far

Oh, when I look back now
That summer seemed to last forever
And if I had the choice
Yeah, I'd always wanna be there
Those were the best days of my life

Ain't no use in complainin'
When you've got a job to do
Spent my evenings down at the drive-in
And that's when I met you, yeah
Standin' on your mama's porch
You told me that you'd wait forever
Oh, and when you held my hand
I knew that it was now or never
Those were the best days of my life
Oh, yeah
Back in the summer of sixty-nine, oh

Man, we were killin' time, we were young and restless
We needed to unwind
I guess nothin' can last forever, forever, no
Yeah
And now the times are changin'
Look at everything that's come and gone
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Key:

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Like when you said you felt so happy you could die
Told myself that you were right for me
But felt so lonely in your company
But that was love and it's an ache I still remember

You can get addicted to a certain kind of sadness
Like resignation to the end, always the end
So when we found that we could not make sense
Well you said that we would still be friends
But I'll admit that I was glad it was over

Chorus.

But you didn't have to cut me off
Make out like it never happened and that we were nothing
And I don't even need your love
But you treat me like a stranger and that feels so rough
No, you didn't have to stoop so low
Have your friends collect your records and

then change your number
I guess that I don't need that though
Now you're just somebody that I used to know
(3 times)

Now and then I think of all the times you screwed me over
But had me believing it was always something that I'd done
But I don't wanna live that way
Reading into every word you say
You said that you could let it go
And I wouldn't catch you hung up on somebody that you used to know

Chorus.

Goodbye My Lover (James Blunt)

Did I disappoint you or let you down?
Should I be feeling guilty or let the judges frown?
'Cause I saw the end before we'd begun, Yes
I saw you were blinded and I knew I had won.
So I took what's mine by eternal right.
Took your soul out into the night.
It may be over but it won't stop there,
I am here for you if you'd only care.
You touched my heart you touched my soul.
You changed my life and all my goals.
And love is blind and that I knew when,
My heart was blinded by you.
I've kissed your lips and held your head.
Shared your dreams and shared your bed.
I know you well, I know your smell.
I've been addicted to you.

Chorus:

Goodbye my lover.
Goodbye my friend.
You have been the one.
You have been the one for me.

I am a dreamer but when I wake,

You can't break my spirit - it's my dreams you take.
And as you move on, remember me,
Remember us and all we used to be
I've seen you cry, I've seen you smile.
I've watched you sleeping for a while. I'd be the father of your child.
I'd spend a lifetime with you.
I know your fears and you know mine.
We've had our doubts but now we're fine,
And I love you, I swear that's true.
I cannot live without you.

Chorus.

And I still hold your hand in mine.
In mine when I'm asleep.
And I will bear my soul in time,
When I'm kneeling at your feet.

Chorus.