

# 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  
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### 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?



## 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.



music video

## 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  
You would always win, always win

### Chorus:

But I set fire to the rain  
Watched it pour as I touched your face  
Well, it burned while I cried  
'Cause I heard it screaming  
Out your name, Your name

When I lay with you  
I could 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 knew, never knew  
All the things you'd say  
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### Chorus.

But I set fire to the rain  
Watched it pour as I touched your face  
Well, it burned while I cried  
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I set fire to the rain  
And I threw us into the flames  
Well, it felt something died  
'Cause I knew that that was  
The last time, the last time  
Sometimes I wake up by the door,  
That heart you caught must be waiting for you  
Even now when we're already over  
I can't help myself from looking for you

### Chorus.

## Havana (Camila Cabello)

### Chorus:

Havana, ooh na-na (ay)  
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

### 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)



# Key:

## Summer of '69 (Bryan Adams)

I got my first real six-string  
Bought it at the five-and-dime  
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  
Sometimes when I play that old six-string  
I think about you, wonder what went wrong  
Standin' on your mama's porch  
You told me that it'd last forever  
Oh, and when you held my hand  
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Those were the best days of my life  
Oh, yeah

## Champagne Supernova (Oasis)

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How many lives are living strange  
Where were you while we were getting high?  
Slowly walking down the hall  
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### 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  
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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 walking down the hall  
Faster than a cannon ball  
Where were you while 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 are living strange  
Where were you while we were getting high?  
Slowly walking down the hall  
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### Chorus.

# Key:

## Somebody That I Used to Know (Gotye)

Now and then I think of when we were together  
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.