



Past Time Clauses

SENTENCES WITH PAST TIME CLAUSES				
	PAST TIME CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE	
	SUBJECT	VERB	SUBJECT	VERB
Before	the storm	hit,	everyone	was sleeping.
When	the house	collapsed,	I	was eating dinner.
While	I	was sleeping,	the phone	rang.
After	the play	ended,	everyone	clapped.

POSITION OF PAST TIME CLAUSES	
PAST TIME CLAUSE	MAIN CLAUSE
When the house collapsed,	I was eating dinner.
After the play ended,	everyone clapped.
MAIN CLAUSE	PAST TIME CLAUSE
I was eating dinner	when the house collapsed.
Everyone clapped	after the play ended.

Overview

- A clause is a group of words that has a subject and a verb.
- A main clause can stand alone as a complete sentence.
- A dependent clause cannot stand alone and must be used with a main clause.

Past Time Clauses

- Past time clauses are dependent clauses. They begin with words such as *before*, *when*, *while*, and *after*.
- The verbs in a past time clause and main clause can be in the simple past or in the past continuous.
- A past time clause can come before or after the main clause with no change in meaning. If the past time clause comes first, it is separated from the main clause by a comma.