

Past simple & Past continuous

Past simple

1 Some examples of the **past simple**

*I **walked** to college **yesterday**.*

*She **didn't** phone me **last week**.*

*When **did** you arrive in this country?*

2 Forms of the **past simple**

Positive

I / You / He / She / It / We / They + walked

Negative (did not / didn't + verb)

I / You / He / She / It / We / They + **did not** / **didn't** walk
NOT ~~didn't walked~~

Questions (Did + subject + verb....?)

Did + I / you / he / she / it / we / they + walk ?
NOT ~~Did he walked?~~

3 Regular verbs (positive forms)

We form the past simple by adding **-ed** to the verb:

walk → *walked* *finish* → *finished*

For verbs ending with -e, we add -d:

live → *lived* *love* → *loved*

For verbs ending with a consonant and -y, we remove -y and add -ied:

carry → *carried* *try* → *tried*

For many verbs ending with **CVC**, we **double the last letter** and add **-ed**.

stop → *stopped* *plan* → *planned*

4 Irregular verbs

<i>go went</i>	<i>come came</i>	<i>do ... did</i>
<i>speak spoke</i>	<i>run ran</i>	<i>have had</i>
<i>take took</i>	<i>see saw</i>	<i>buy bought</i>
<i>think thought</i>	<i>leave left</i>	<i>make made</i>

Verb Be (present): am / is / are

Verb Be (past): was / were

*We use the **past simple** to talk about actions completed in the past.*

*He **came out of the door**, **locked it**, **got into his car** and **drove away**.*



Family history

Complete this description using the past simple forms of the verbs in brackets.

My name is Gurnam and my family originally *came*⁰ (come) from India. My grandparents *moved*¹ (move) to Britain in 1975 and they went to live in the city of Leicester. My grandfather *opened*² (open) a restaurant there and he *became*³ (become) very successful. He *didn't speak*⁴ (not speak) much English when he *arrived*⁵ (arrive) in Britain but he *learnt*⁶ (learn) very quickly. Lots of people *ate*⁷ (eat) at his restaurant. He *worked*⁸ (work) very hard for many years and he *made*⁹ (make) plenty of money. My father *was*¹⁰ (be) born in Leicester and he *went*¹¹ (go) to school there. He *did*¹² (do) very well at school and *passed*¹³ (pass) all his exams. Then he *studied*¹⁴ (study) at university for three years and *got*¹⁵ (get) a Business degree. After that, he *set*¹⁶ (set) up his own business. At first he *sold*¹⁷ (sell) clothes in a shop near the city centre, and after a few years he *owned*¹⁸ (own) five shops all over the city. When I was a small child, we *lived*¹⁹ (live) in a small house but my father *bought*²⁰ (buy) a bigger one two years ago.

Past continuous

1 Some examples of the **past continuous**

*In 2003, I **was studying** at college.*

*Please repeat that, I **wasn't listening**.*

*What **were you doing** at 6 o'clock yesterday evening?*

2 Forms of the **past continuous**

Positive (was / were + -ing)

*I / He / She / It + **was + walking***

*You / We / They + **were + walking***

Negative (was not / wasn't & were not / weren't + -ing)

*I / He / She / It + **was not / wasn't + walking***

*You / We / They + **were not / weren't + walking***

Questions (Was / Were + subject + -ing....?)

Was + I / he / she / it + walking?

Were + you / we / they + walking?

*We use the **past continuous** for actions and situations that were in progress at a particular time in the past:*

*At 7.30 p.m. last night, I **was playing** a video game, my sister **was doing** her homework and my parents **were reading**.*

What was happening five years ago

Complete this description of situations five years ago, using the past continuous and the verbs in brackets. Use short forms for negatives.

Five years ago, I *was living*⁰ (live) in a different city. I *was studying*¹ (study) for my final school exams and I *was trying*² (try) to decide what to do after school. I *was doing*³ (do) homework every evening and I *wasn't going*⁴ (not go) out much. My friends *were having*⁵ (have) more fun than me. They *were going*⁶ (go) to clubs and they *were enjoying*⁷ (enjoy) themselves while I *was sitting*⁸ (sit) at home. But I'm glad now that I *wasn't doing*⁹ (not do) that, because I passed my exams and now I've got a good job.

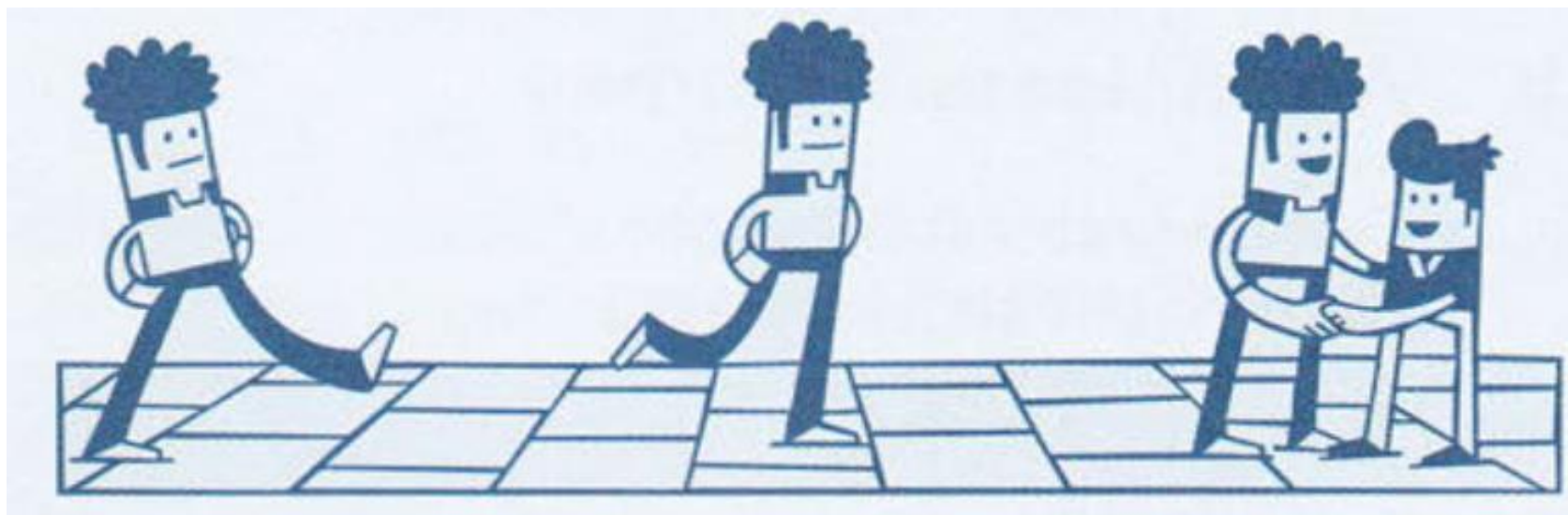
Five years ago, my father *was working*¹⁰ (work) very hard. He *was getting*¹¹ (get) up early every morning and he *was coming*¹² (come) home quite late at night. He *was feeling*¹³ (feel) under pressure and he *wasn't enjoying*¹⁴ (not enjoy) life. He is retired now and he is much happier because he has a lot more free time.

Five years ago, my sister *was going*¹⁵ (go) out with a local boy. They *were saving*¹⁶ (save) money to get married and they *were planning*¹⁷ (plan) their wedding. She *was serving*¹⁸ (serve) in a shop and he *was living*¹⁹ (live) with his parents. Now they're married and they've got three children.

Past simple or past continuous

We use the **past continuous** to speak about background actions in the story and we use the **past simple** to speak about the actions happened in the story and interrupt the story.

I was walking down the street **when I met** an old friend.



*We use **when** before the **past simple** (and **past continuous**)
and **while** before the **past continuous**.*

***When** the doorbell **rang**, I **was lying** in bed.
While I **was lying** in bed, the doorbell **rang**.*

1 Complete the sentences with the verb in brackets in the past simple or past continuous.

- 1 I fell asleep when I *was studying*. (study)
- 2 My friends were looking after a rabbit until their friend *returned* (return) home.
- 3 The lion was sleeping when I *saw* (see) it at the zoo.
- 4 What *were* you *doing* (do) when I phoned?
- 5 I *wasn't watching* (not watch) the lion when it woke up.
- 6 The penguins *were eating* (eat) and the dolphins were jumping when we arrived.
- 7 The teacher *picked up* (pick up) a pen while the students were doing their exam.

2 **Circle** the correct ending, **A**, **B** or **C**.

- 1** I was feeding my rabbit when my phone
A rang. **B** ring. **C** was ringing.
- 2** What was the baby doing when his mum
A was coming in? **B** come in? **C** came in?
- 3** We were surprised when we saw everyone
A is sitting in silence. **B** sat in silence.
 C was sitting in silence.
- 4** Juan didn't say anything when he saw his friend
A left. **B** leaved. **C** was leaving.
- 5** My best friend was crying because
A were breaking her phone. **B** her sister broke
C she break her phone. her phone.
- 6** When the teacher came in, the students
 A weren't working. **B** weren't work.
C aren't work.
- 7** The girl fell and hurt her leg when she
A ran after a chicken. **B** runs after a chicken
 C was running after a chicken.

3 Put the verb in brackets into the past simple or past continuous and then match the sentences.

1 When I was getting *G*

2 When we arrived at the *F*

3 Jack broke his leg while he *C*

4 My sister turned off the *A*

5 I was playing computer games last *D*

6 The monkeys *E*

7 The lion was drinking water when *B*

A TV while I *was watching* (watch) it!

B the mouse *appeared* (appear).

C *was eating* (play) football in the park.

D night when my friend *phoned* (phone) me.

E *were picking up* (pick up) bananas when I arrived.

F zoo, the elephants were *eating* (eat).

G on the bus, a dog *bit* (bite) me.

4 Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets in the past simple or past continuous

- 1 The teacher *arrived* (arrive) while we *were copying* (copy) our homework.
- 2 The dog _____ (run) around the park when it _____ (see) the cat.
- 3 My baby brother _____ (cry) all morning until we _____ (turn on) the TV.
- 4 While Susan _____ (study), her phone _____ (ring).
- 5 Somebody _____ (pick up) my phone while I _____ (not look).
- 6 What other animals _____ you _____ (see) when the lions _____ (sleep)?
- 7 The children _____ (cry) a lot while we _____ (look after) them.

5 Find and correct the mistakes in the sentences.



- 1 When we walk we saw a monkey on the road. *were walking*
- 2 It is raining all last winter in my town.
- 3 The old woman was get off the bus when she saw her friend.
- 4 I turned off the TV when my father saying it was time for bed.
- 5 My mother came in and saw we aren't looking after our baby sister.
- 6 The boy play football in the garden when the rain started.
- 7 When we went home, we saw the rabbit at the roundabout.

6 Complete Robbie's short story with the verbs in the box in the past simple or past continuous.

be	have	play	run	shout	start
stop	talk				

Last summer I ¹ *had* a very strange experience. I ² ball in the park when suddenly it became very dark. I couldn't see anything. I was afraid. I started to run to the entrance. While I ³, I heard a scream. I stopped and was looking for help when something caught my leg. It was a little dog. It was biting me and I ⁴ "stop" when a little girl came from behind a tree. "Don't worry," she said, "It is only playing." I ⁵ crying and the dog stopped biting me. "Talk to it," she said. I wasn't sure but I touched the dog on its head and it ⁶ to lick me. Suddenly, it was bright again. I looked around but there was nobody. "Where are you?" I asked but the dog and the girl weren't there. I ⁷ to myself! I woke up in my bedroom. It was just a dream.

4

- 2 was running, saw
- 3 was crying, turned on
- 4 was studying, rang
- 5 picked up, wasn't looking
- 6 did see, were sleeping
- 7 cried, were looking after

5

- ② 2 is, was
- 3 get, getting
- 4 saying, said
- 5 aren't, weren't
- 6 play, was playing
- 7 went, were going

6

- 2 was playing
- 3 was running
- 4 was shouting
- 5 started
- 6 tried
- 7 was talking

