



Hello



Lets watch  
a video

# Watch and tell the summary

Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect | Telling a Story in English

## Telling a Story: Recalling events

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0:01 / 1:56

Tony Mr James

YouTube

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The video player shows a split-screen introduction. The left side has an orange background with a cartoon character named Tony. The right side has a blue background with a cartoon character named Mr James. The video title is 'Telling a Story: Recalling events' and the description is 'Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect | Telling a Story in English'. The player includes standard YouTube controls like a play button, progress bar, volume, and settings.

## Past continuous

### Positive

I / He / She / It was eating a sandwich.

You / We / They were standing on the balcony.

### Negative

I / He / She / It wasn't working in the garden.

You / We / They weren't reading a book.

### Questions

Was I / he / she / it building some cupboards?

Were you / we / they painting the gate?

### Short answers

Yes, I / he / she / it was.

No, he / she / it wasn't.

Yes, you / we / they were.

No, you / we / they weren't.

## Past continuous and past simple

We use the **past continuous**:

- to describe activities happening at a particular moment in the past. Sometimes, these activities happen at the same time. We're not interested when the activities started or finished.

*Mum and dad were cooking, my brother was playing and I was doing my homework.*

- after *while* to refer to a longer action or event that happened at the same time as another action.

*While Gary was painting the bedroom, Paula was painting the living room.*

We use the **past simple**:

- when one action follows another.

*I put on my coat and I left the house. Then, it started to rain.*

- after *when* to refer to a shorter action or event that happened in the middle of a longer one or interrupted it.

*I was putting on my coat when it started to rain.*

## Practice

- 1** Use the past continuous to write complete sentences.

*At 7.30 last night ...*

- 0** Mum / drive / her car into the garage.

*Mum was driving her car into the garage.*

- 1** It / rain.

*It was raining.*

- 2** Dad / cook / dinner.

*Dad was cooking dinner.*

- 3** My brother and I / watch TV in the living room.

*My brother and I were watching TV.*

- 4** My sister / read.

*My sister was reading.*

- 5** My grandparents / leave their apartment.

*My grandparents were leaving their apartment.*

**2** Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 0 I was studying in my bedroom when I **heard** / *was hearing* a strange noise.
- 1 While I was surfing, **it started** / *was starting* to rain.
- 2 My friends *played* / **were playing** football in the classroom when the teacher came in.
- 3 We walked to the park and then **we had** / *were having* a game of football.
- 4 Ed rang me while I *did* / **was doing** my homework.
- 5 We *packed* / **were packing** our suitcases when the phone rang.

**3** Complete the email with the past simple or past continuous form of the verb in brackets.

The image shows a screenshot of an email client window. The window has a title bar with standard OS window controls (red, yellow, green buttons and a maximize button) and a search icon. The email header shows 'To: Mark' and 'From: Tim'. The main body of the email contains a text message with several numbered blanks for a grammar exercise. The text is as follows:

Hi Mark!

We (0) arrived (arrive) here in New York yesterday. When we (1) Got up (get up) this morning, the sun (2) Was (shine).

It was a beautiful day, so we (3) shinning (decide) to walk to Central Park. While we (4) Were sitting (sit) on the grass, I (5) saw (see) my teacher! She (6) Wasn't (not be) pleased to see me.

See you soon!

Tim





Thanks



# School Subjects

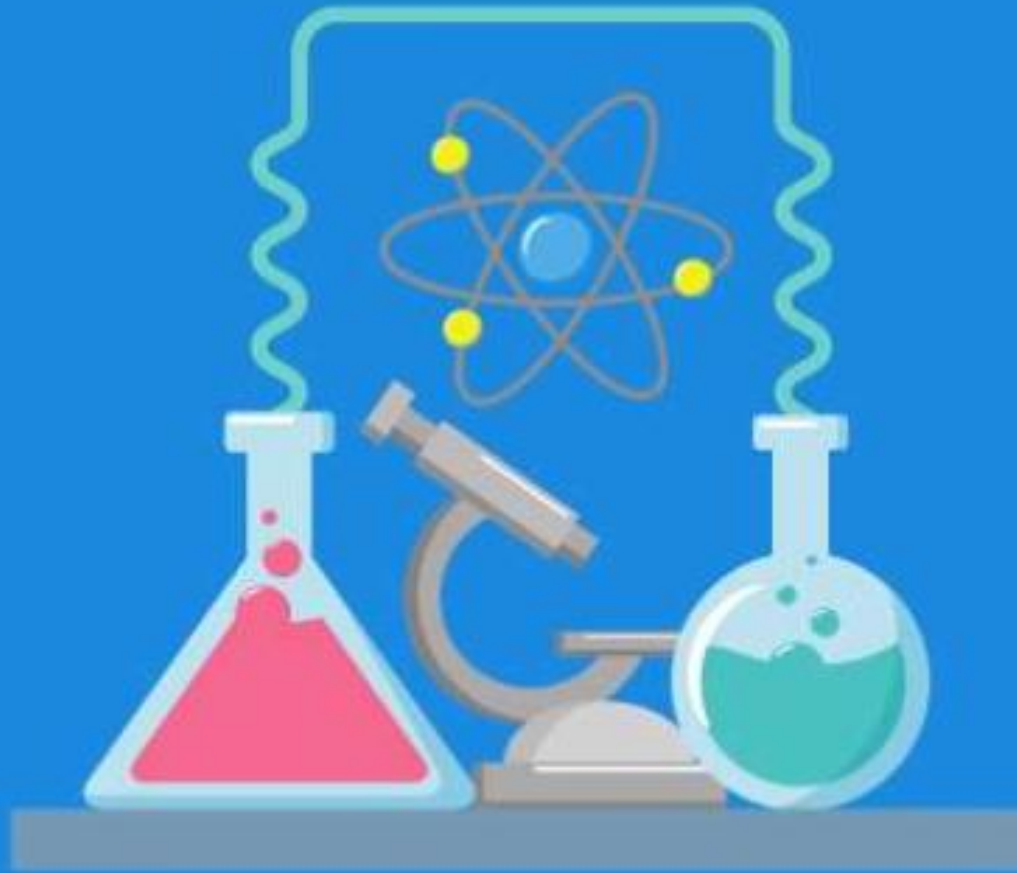




**English**



**math**



**science**



**history**



**geography**





**P.E**



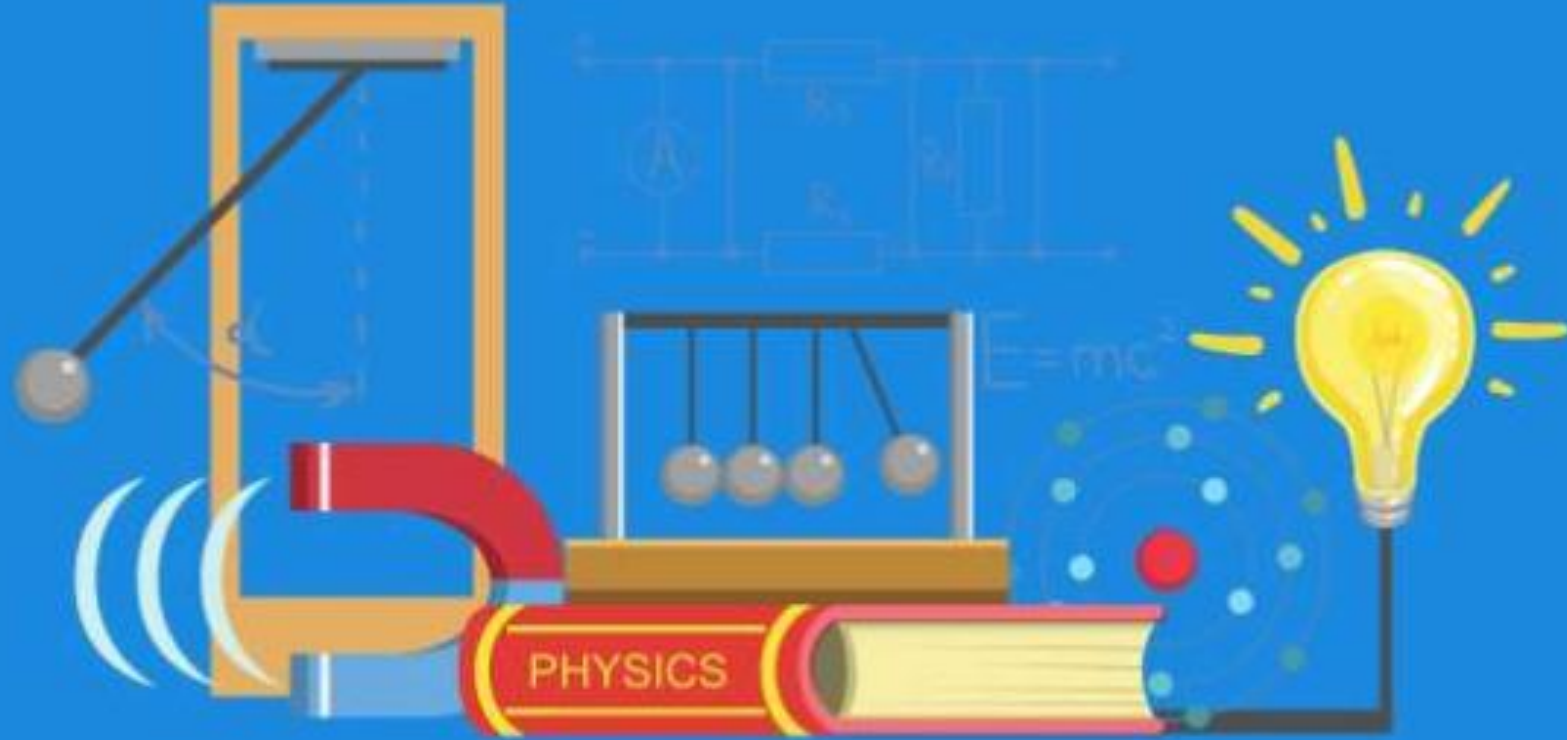
**drama**



**biology**



**chemistry**



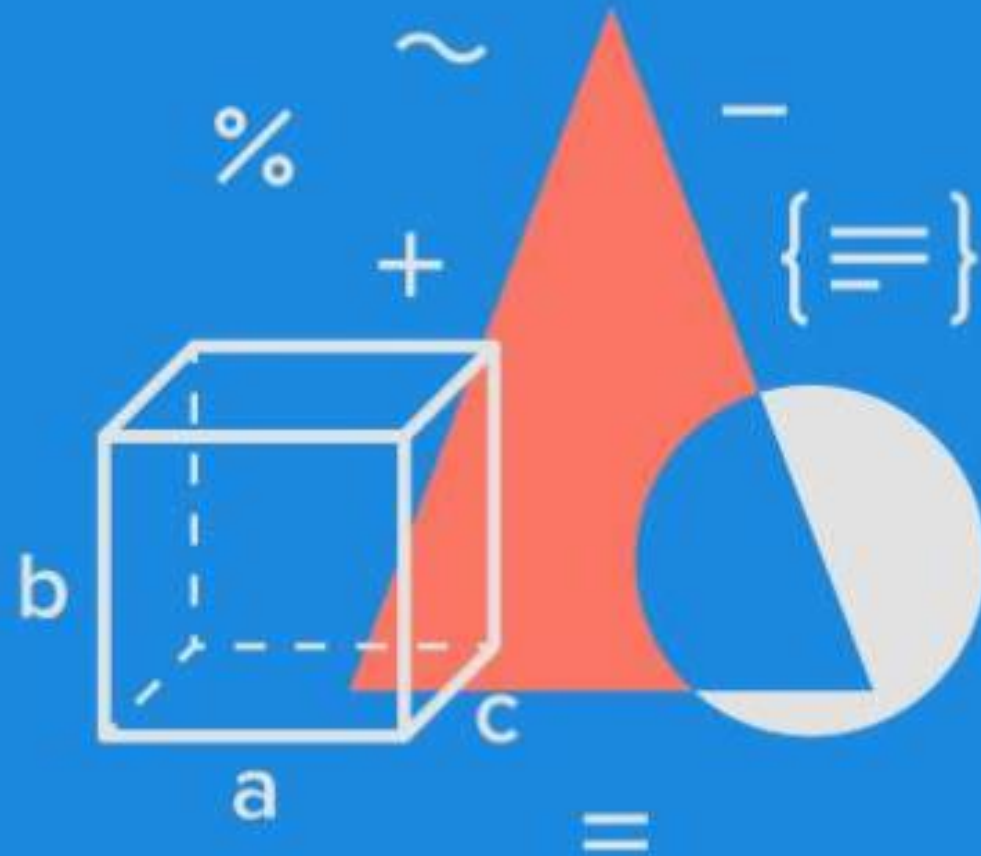
**physics**



**ICT**



**foreign languages**



**geometry**



# Design and technology



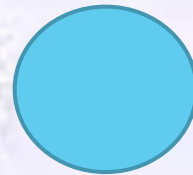
In international tests of maths, science and reading, students in Finland do well. This is good news! But when you look more carefully at the schools, it's not easy to explain. Finnish students don't start school until they are seven years old. The school day is short, about five hours, and there are only three or four classes a day. Students don't have much homework and there are no exams. So, why don't they do badly in tests? Perhaps something else can explain it.

There is another unusual feature of schools in Finland. For most of us, the school timetable is a list of subjects, for example ICT, history, foreign languages, geography, with one lesson following another. But some experts believe our brains work in a different way. They say our brains don't divide our learning into subjects. Our brains learn better when they get new information in context. This is why some Finnish schools don't teach subjects separately. Instead, they give students a project, such as 'the weather', and then bring school subjects into the project.

So how do some experts believe we learn most easily? Here's an example of a project with a class of 12-year-olds. Students watch a video re-enactment of the end of the city of Pompeii. Then on their laptops they compare ancient Italy under the Romans with modern Finland. Groups look at different parts of the topic and then share their ideas. They also use 3-D printers to make a tiny Roman building. Later, they use the pieces of the building for a game. This project includes history, ICT, and design and technology.

Read the article about schools in Finland and choose the best title.

- A** Starting young
- B** New ways of learning
- C** Time for homework



### **3** Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1** At what age do Finnish students go to school?
- 2** How long are they at school every day?
- 3** Do students have any homework?
- 4** Do subject words appear on all school timetables?
- 5** How do some experts think our brains work?
- 6** In Finland, do students
  - a** complete a project at the same time as they learn school subjects, or
  - b** study school subjects and then complete a project?
- 7** What subjects do students learn when they do the project on Pompeii?

## Answers

1 They start at the age of 7.

2 For a bout five hours.

3 They have a little.

4 Yes, they do.

5 They think our brains understand better when knowledge is connected.

6 a

7 History, ICT, design and technology.

**4** In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

- 1** Which are your favourite subjects?
- 2** Which subjects don't you enjoy as much?
- 3** Which subjects are you best at?