

talking about the past

past simple

positive

I/He/She/It/We/You/They	helped at the event.
I/He/She/It/We/You/They	went to the event.

negative

I/He/She/It/We/You/They	didn't help at the event.
I/He/She/It/We/You/They	didn't go to the event.

questions

Did	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	help at the event?
Did	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	go to the event?

short answers

Yes,	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	did
No,	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	didn't

We use the past simple to talk about:

- an action that started and finished in the past.
David **finished** his maths homework.
- one completed past action after another.
I **got** home and **sat** down.
- a past habit or regular past event.
Maria and Eva **visited** the lake **everyday** on their holiday.

Note: Look at the spelling changes:

help – **helped** practise – **practised**
study – **studied** chop – **chopped**

past continuous

positive

I/He/She/It	was	waiting.
We/You/They	were	

negative

I/He/She/It	wasn't	waiting.
We/You/They	weren't	

questions

Was	I/he/she/it	waiting?
Were	we/you/they	

short answers

Yes,	I/he/she/it	was
	we/you/they	were
No,	I/he/she/it	wasn't
	we/you/they	weren't

We use the past continuous to:

- talk about an action in progress in the past.
I **was playing** video games.
We **were eating** breakfast.
- set the scene in a story.
The sun **was shining**.
My dad and brother **were watching** TV.

We use the past simple for an action that interrupts or happens during another action in progress in the past. For the action in progress, we use the past continuous.

Claudette **was studying** in Pisa **when** she **met** Katerina.

We can use *while* instead of *when*, but we put *while* before the past continuous verb.

Dan **heard** the news **while** he **was reading** through his social media account.

When Dan **heard** the news, he **was reading** through his social media account.

stative verbs

We don't usually use stative verbs in the past continuous form. See page 126 for more information on stative verbs.

PRACTICE

past simple

- 1** Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

- I (see) my friend last night.
- I (enjoy) the book more than the film.
- The lesson (not end) on time.
- We (speak) Italian when we were on holiday.
- Where (you/be) last night?
- I (not want) the night to end.

past continuous

- 3** Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- What (you/do) at this time last week?
- I (not consider) entering the competition.
- (your sister/play) tennis in the park on Saturday?
- The internet (not work) at home, so I couldn't go online.
- (it/rain) on your way home yesterday?
- I had the TV switched on, but I (not pay) attention to it.

- 4** Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- I (do) the washing-up while I was listening to the song.
- When I (come) in, my friends were waiting for me.
- I (tidy) my room when the phone rang.
- Our team (win) until the others scored in the last minute.
- It (rain) when I went out for a walk yesterday morning.
- The sun (shine) when we left the house.