

B2 – Past Simple, Past Continuous, Used To

A. Past Simple (the second form of the verb)

"Last August I went to a music festival."

→ We use the Past Simple to talk about an action which started and finished in the past.

The time is **mentioned / not mentioned**.

Your own example: _____

"I turned off the lights, closed the door and left home."

→ We use the Past Simple to talk about a series of actions which happened **at the same time / one after another**.

Your own example: _____

"When I was in kindergarten, I played with my friends all day long."

→ We use the Past Simple* to express a past habit over a **shorter / longer** period of time.

*not Past Continuous (I ~~was playing~~ with my friends all day long)

Your own example: _____

Read these sentences in the negative and interrogative:

I **didn't** eat the last slice of pizza.

Did you like our trip to New York?

When we use the words
didn't to make negative sentences
and **did** to ask questions,
the verb is the **first / second** form.

B. Past Continuous (was / were + verb + ing)

"Yesterday at 8PM I was eating dinner.

→ We use the Past Continuous to express an action that was **in progress / completed** at a specific moment in the past.

Your own example: _____

C. Past Simple and Past Continuous

"I **was playing** football when I **twisted** my ankle."

→ We use the Past Simple and Continuous together when we want to describe a long action in progress interrupted by a short one.

We use the **Past Simple / Continuous** to describe the longer action and **Past Simple / Continuous** to describe the shorter action.

Your own example: _____

D. Used to + infinitive

"When I was a baby, I **used to sleep** all the time."

→ We use 'Used To' to describe states or actions in the past which **still / no longer** happen or are no longer true.

Your own example: _____

You can replace 'Used to' with 'would', but only when the verb is an action.

"When I was a baby, I **used to have** blond hair." (have = state verb)

When I was a baby, I ~~**would have**~~ blond hair. (have = state verb)

When I was a baby, I **would cry** all the time. (cry = action verb)