



Past Simple vs. Past Continuous



We use the past to talk about things that happened **in the past**.

PAST SIMPLE

We use it for actions that **started and finished** in the past.

1 Structure

+	I / You / He / She / It We / They	V.2	play(ed). watched.
-	I / You / He / She / It We / They	did not (didn't)	play. watch.
?	Did	I / you / he / she / it we / they	play? watch?

2 Examples

- I **visited** my grandparents yesterday.
- She **didn't go** to school last Monday.
- **Did** you **see** that movie?



PAST CONTINUOUS

We use it for actions that **were happening** at a specific time in the past.

1 Structure

+	I / He / She / It We / You / They	was were	V.ing	playing. watching.
-	I / He / She / It We / You / They	was not (wasn't) were not (weren't)	V.ing	playing. watching.
?	Was Were	I / he / she / it we / you / they	V.ing	playing? watching?

2 Examples

- I **was doing** my homework at 7 p.m. yesterday.
- They **weren't watching** TV at that time.
- **Was** he **reading** a book then?



3 A. Put the verbs in brackets into the Past Simple.

- I _____ (watch) a great movie last night.
- They _____ (visit) the museum yesterday.
- He _____ (not play) football last weekend.
- _____ she _____ (like) the cake?
- We _____ (have) a test last Friday.
- My sister _____ (clean) her room.
- _____ they _____ (go) to the beach?
- I _____ (see) him at the party.
- You _____ (not finish) your homework.
- What _____ you _____ (do) yesterday?

B. Write questions for the underlined words.

- I saw a spider in the garden. _____
- She bought a new dress yesterday. _____
- They went to Chiang Mai last summer. _____
- He finished his homework at 8 p.m. _____
- We ate pizza for dinner. _____

4 A. Put the verbs in brackets into the Past Continuous.

- I _____ (watch) TV at 8 p.m. yesterday.
- She _____ (read) a book when I called her.
- They _____ (not play) football at that time.
- _____ he _____ (listen) to music then?
- We _____ (have) dinner at 7 p.m. yesterday.
- My brother _____ (sleep) when I came in.
- _____ they _____ (swim) in the pool?
- I _____ (not do) my homework at 9 p.m.
- You _____ (talk) on the phone at that time.
- What _____ you _____ (do) at 6 p.m.?

B. Write negative sentences.

- I / read / a book / at 8 p.m. _____
- She / watch / TV / last night _____
- They / play / games / at that time _____
- He / listen / to music / yesterday _____
- We / swim / in the sea / then _____

5 Choose the correct tense. (Past Simple or Past Continuous)

- I (was watching / watched) a movie when my friend (called / was calling) me.
- She (visited / was visiting) her aunt yesterday.
- They (were playing / played) basketball at 5 p.m. yesterday.
- We (had / were having) dinner when the lights (went / were going) off.
- He (did not go / was not going) to school last Monday.
- What (did you do / were you doing) at 9 o'clock last night?
- I (saw / was seeing) a good show on TV.
- While I (walked / was walking) home, it (started / was starting) to rain.
- She (wasn't feeling / didn't feel) well yesterday.
- They (were not listening / did not listen) to the teacher.



Remember!

Past Simple = finished actions in the past.

I **ate** breakfast at 7 a.m.



Past Continuous = actions in progress in the past.

I **was eating** breakfast at 7 a.m.

