B2 (FCE)
Past Simple, Past Continuous, Used to

We use the **Past Simple** and **Past Continuous** tenses to talk about actions and events that happened in the **past and are completely finished**.

I. Uses

Match each of the six uses (A – F) with the correct situation.

Past Simple		Last year I **had** a gap year and **went** travelling on my own.
		We **sunbathed** in the morning, **ate** a big lunch, **went** sightseeing, then **got** back in the evening.
		When I **was** a child, I **disliked** travelling by ferry.
Past Continuous		Yesterday at 10 o'clock I **was flying** back home from Peru.
		We **were checking** out a café *when* we suddenly **got** a strange feeling.
		At the youth hostel, one person **was sleeping** *while* another **was talking** on the phone.

A. A long action **interrupted** by a short action in the past.

B. A completed action that happened at a **specific, finished time** in the past.

C. Two actions happening **at the same time** in the past.

D. An action which happened **over a long period** in the past.

E. A series of past actions happening **one after another**.

F. An action in progress at a **specific time** in the past.

○ **Past Simple** and **Past Continuous**

*"I **was swimming** in the sea when I **lost** my sunglasses."*



→ 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: _____

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II. Keywords

We generally use **when** before Past Simple and **while** before Past Continuous.

I was relaxing on the beach _____ I suddenly saw a dolphin.
I suddenly saw a dolphin _____ I was relaxing on the beach.

Note:** You can also use ***when + Past Continuous to refer to background events.
*"I lost my wallet **when** I **was travelling** in Italy."*

III. Form

- **Past Simple**

Affirmative [+]: SUBJECT + VERB-ED / V2 (second form)

Last summer, we _____ (explore) the old town and _____ (find) a wonderful little restaurant.

Negative [-]: SUBJECT + DID + NOT + VERB

They _____ (not / enjoy) the guided tour because it _____ (not / include) free time to explore the city.

Questions [?]: DID + SUBJECT + VERB ?

_____ you _____ (visit) any monuments while you were on holiday in Rome?

- **Past Continuous**

Affirmative [+]: SUBJECT + WAS / WERE + VERB + ING

At 9:00 AM, the tourists _____ (pack) their suitcases while the sun _____ (shine) bright over the resort.

Negative [–]: SUBJECT + WAS / WERE + NOT + VERB + ING

We _____ (not / relax) on the beach all morning because of the heavy rain.

Questions [?]: WAS / WERE + SUBJECT + VERB + ING ?

_____ you _____ (wait) for the airport shuttle when I called you?

IV. 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 younger, I **used to have** a fear of flying. (*have* = state verb)
When I was younger, I ~~**would have**~~ a fear of flying. (*have* = state verb)
When I was younger, I **would pack** my bag a week early. (*pack* = action verb)

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