

Grammar Focus

Past Tenses for Storytelling

Past Simple

We use the past simple for something that:

- happened in the past e.g. *The train stopped in a dark tunnel.*
- was true for some time in the past e.g. *Long ago, Bear had a long black tail.*

Past Continuous

We use the past continuous to describe:

- an action that continued for some time in the past e.g. *The wind was blowing, snow was falling and ice covered the lake.*
- a longer action that happened before and after a shorter action e.g. *While Bear was waiting, Fox crept back to his house.*

Past Perfect

- We use the past perfect for an action that happened in the past before another action in the past e.g. *The hole had frozen around his tail and his tail broke off.*

1 Read and answer.

Read the traditional Arab story **The Farmer without a Brain**.

Think of a suitable verb to complete each gap.

Write the verb in the correct form **past simple** or **past continuous** to complete the gap.

The Farmer without a Brain



Many years ago, two farmers, Imran and Laith, (1) through a wood to their fields when they (2) the footprints of a lion on the path.

"Look, there are lions nearby. We should go home," whispered Imran.

"No, we've got work to do," Laith replied.



The men (3) to the farm. They worked all day in the fields until it was time to return home.

"Let's take a different way home," suggested Imran.

"No. The same path is much shorter," answered Laith. Imran shook his head and stepped onto the mountain path. As he (4) away, he (5) to Laith and shouted, "Well I'm not going that way. I don't want to be a lion's dinner!"



Meanwhile, Laith (6) the same way back through the wood.

Soon, he (7) the lion who was waiting for him on the path.

The lion (8) "I need to eat your brain to make me clever and powerful!"

While the lion (9), Laith (10) Imran on the mountain path.

Then, he looked at the lion and replied, "Listen, I cannot help you because I have no brain. If I had a brain I wouldn't have returned this way. The one with a brain is up on the other path."

"Thank you," said the lion, and started to climb the mountain towards Imran.

Quickly, Laith whistled to his friend and warned him about the lion.

Imran heard the whistle and ran home safely.



took

Were walking

met

turned

saw

was

saw

continued

was talking

growled