

**READ THE GRAMMAR NOTES AND STUDY PAST SIMPLE AND PAST CONTINUOUS.**
**past simple**

We use the past simple for finished actions or situations in the past, past habits, regular past events or past actions that happened one after the other.

I **1** grew up in Wales. My family **2** spoke English.

**past continuous**

We use the past continuous to describe actions in progress in the past, especially when another action (past simple) interrupts the first one (past continuous).

While everyone in England **3** was watching fashionable American TV shows, we **4** were learning about farming.

I **5** was dreaming of going to live in Paris when I **6** realised that I needed French lessons.

**NOW, COMPLETE THIS EXERCISE.**

- 5** Choose the correct verb forms to complete the interview.  
Are there any other examples of stative verbs in the text?

## My Mexican summer

**A Where did you go and why?**

My grandparents are Mexican, but before this summer, I **was not understanding / did not understand** much Spanish. So my brother and I **were going / went** to my grandparents' house in Mexico to change that.

**B How did you learn?**

When we arrived, our grandparents **were waiting / waited** to greet us at the airport in the town of Merida. We didn't use any books to learn Spanish, but we didn't need them. We **were going / went** with our grandmother to the local market every day, where we **were choosing / chose** something tasty for our dinner that day. One day, we **were listening / listened** to Mexican songs on the radio while we **were cooking / cooked** together, and I realised I could understand all the words!

**C What did your grandfather teach you?**

Most weekends we **were exploring / explored** interesting places around town with my granddad. One day, he **was shutting / shut** the car door on his finger. I **was hearing / heard** him say a new word. 'What does that mean, Granddad?' I asked. 'You don't need to know that word,' he told me! I'm not bilingual yet, but I'm good at communicating in Spanish now.