Unit 2 Grammar

Past simple, past continuous, *used to*

Past simple

Form

statement	negative	question
I/you/he/she/it/we/they ***played*** ...	*I/you/he/she/it/we/they* ***did not (didn't) play*** ...	***Did*** *I/you/he/she/it/we/they* ***play*** ...?

Use	Example
Completed actions	*I* ***saw*** *the new James Bond film yesterday.*
Repeated actions in the past	*I* ***went*** *to the theatre four times last month.*
General truths about the past	*Fifty years ago, people* ***didn't spend*** *as much on entertainment as they do today.*
Main events in a story	*Josh* ***pushed*** *the door open and* ***looked*** *inside the room.*

Helpful hints

The past simple is often used with the following words and phrases:

- *yesterday*
- *last week/summer/year/etc*
- *in January/2001/etc*
- *an hour/a week/a year ago*

Watch out! Some verbs have irregular past simple forms. See page 182.

Past continuous

Form

statement	negative	question
I/he/she/it ***was playing*** ...	*I/he/she/it* ***was not (wasn't) playing*** ...	***Was*** *I/he/she/it* ***playing****?*
You/we/they ***were playing*** ...	*You/we/they* ***were not (weren't) playing*** ...	***Were*** *you/we/they* ***playing****?*

Use	Example
Actions happening at a moment in the past	*At nine o'clock last night, I* ***was watching*** *TV.*
Two actions in progress at the same time	*I* ***was reading*** *a book while you* ***were doing*** *the washing-up.*
Background information in a story	*It* ***was raining*** *so Wendy decided to go to the cinema.*

Helpful hints

The past continuous is often used with the following words and phrases:

- *at that moment*
- *at one/two/etc o'clock*
- *while*

Watch out!

- When one action in the past happens in the middle of another, we use the past simple and the past continuous together.
  ✓ *The phone* ***rang*** *while I* ***was watching*** *a DVD.*
- We do not use the past continuous for regular or repeated actions in the past.
  ✗ ~~*Last year, I* ***was going*** *to the cinema every weekend.*~~

used to

Form

used to + bare infinitive

statement	negative	question
I/you/he/she/it/we/they ***used to*** ...	*I/you/he/she/it/we/they* ***never used to*** ...	***Did*** *I/you/he/she/it/we/they* ***use to*** ...?
	I/you/he/she/it/we/they ***didn't use to*** ...	

Use	Example
Distant past habits and states	*When I was four, I* ***used to*** *eat ice cream every day.*

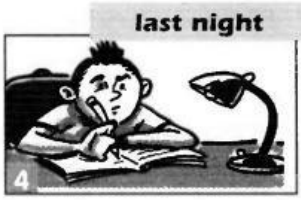
LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Complete using the correct past simple form of the verbs in the box. You may have to use some negative forms.

come • give • go • have • know • make • send • take

1 I got to the post office just before it closed and ..... the letter.
2 We invited Stephanie to the party, but she ..... .
3 Jack lost his job because he ..... too many mistakes.
4 Everyone ..... that it was Bill's fault, but nobody said anything.
5 Karen ..... the keys from the kitchen table and ran out the door.
6 I was bored, so Mum ..... me some money to go shopping.
7 Do you remember the time we ..... to India on holiday?
8 It started raining, but luckily I ..... an umbrella in my bag.

B Look at the pictures and complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the past simple.



1 I don't want to go and see the film because I saw it last week .
2 I don't need a football because ..... .
3 I know a lot about Paris because ..... .
4 I don't need to worry about my homework because ..... .
5 I haven't got a PlayStation any more because ..... .
6 Mum is angry with me because ..... .

C Complete using the correct past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

1 Ted ..... (**play**) his guitar at half past seven.
2 At midnight, I ..... (**sleep**), but Jane ..... (**listen**) to music.
3 Luke ..... (**stand**) outside the bank when suddenly two robbers ran past him.
4 I know Doug ..... (**work**) late at the office because I saw him when I ..... (**leave**).
5 ..... you ..... (**have**) a shower when the earthquake happened?
6 Penny ..... (**run**) to catch the bus when she slipped and fell.
7 When you saw Eugene ..... he ..... (**go**) home?
8 At midnight? Erm … we ..... (**watch**) a DVD, I think.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Circle the correct word or phrase.

1 When we were in Canada, we **went / were going** skiing almost every day.
2 About four years ago, I **decided / was deciding** to become a chef.
3 Georgia **had / was having** a shower when someone knocked at the door.
4 Holly and I ran from the house to the taxi because it **rained / was raining** heavily.
5 Two men **argued / were arguing** outside, so I went to see what was happening.
6 Daniel **called / was calling** you at one o'clock yesterday, but you were here with me.
7 We **ate / were eating** breakfast when a letter came through the letter box.
8 As I walked past the window, I saw that Paula **made / was making** a cake.
9 I **dreamt / was dreaming** about my favourite band when the alarm clock went off.
10 While I **practised / was practising** the trumpet late last night, a neighbour came to complain.

E Complete using the correct past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in the box.

answer • be • continue • get • go • have • open • practise • put
ring • say • shine • sing • wake

Amber's Big Match

One morning, Amber (**1**) ..... up early. The sun (**2**) ..... and the birds (**3**) ..... . Amber (**4**) ..... very excited because it was the day of the big tennis match.
Amber (**5**) ..... downstairs and into the kitchen, where her father (**6**) ..... breakfast.
'Morning, Amber. Today's the day!' he (**7**) ..... . Amber smiled nervously. 'Don't worry!' he (**8**) ..... . 'You'll be fine.'
Amber (**9**) ..... some toast into the toaster and (**10**) ..... the fridge. Just as she (**11**) ..... the butter out, the phone (**12**) ..... . Her father (**13**) ..... it. After a few minutes, he put the phone down.
'Bad news, I'm afraid. The other player (**14**) ..... yesterday when she had an accident. The match is off.'
Amber ate her toast slowly. She was surprised she didn't feel disappointed.

F Complete using the correct form of *used to*. You may have to use some negative forms.

1 When I was younger, I ..... eat pizza almost every day!
2 ..... there ..... be a supermarket on the corner?
3 Bradley is a teacher, but he ..... want to be a train driver.
4 I ..... like eating cabbage, but now I love it!
5 ..... Rick ..... have blond hair when he was a little boy?
6 I know Lily ..... cook much, but now I think she makes dinner every day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS