

THEME 3

The Past Simple

We use it to describe completed actions in the past. (We usually mention the time.)

Affirmative sentences:

I played basketball yesterday.

Frank studied maths last weekend.

We went to the checkout, paid and then left the department store.

I finished school two years ago.

(See the list of irregular verbs on page 157.)

Negative sentences:

I didn't watch TV yesterday afternoon.

You didn't go jogging last Sunday.

Nancy didn't visit them a few days ago.

Questions:

Did you see Tim last night?

Did Mr. Stone buy that car yesterday?

What did they do after the earthquake?

The Past Continuous

We use it to describe actions in progress at a certain time in the past.

Affirmative sentences:

I was sleeping at 10:30 last night.

We were sunbathing at 2 p.m. yesterday.

Negative sentences:

He wasn't driving fast at the time of the accident.

They weren't cycling at 5 p.m. last Friday.

Questions:

Were you watching TV at 9 a.m. yesterday?

What was he doing when you saw him?

The Past Simple and the Past Continuous

They were playing football when it started to rain.
(= While they were playing football, it started to rain.)

Sharon was reading a magazine when the lights went out. (= While Sharon was reading a magazine, the lights went out.)

A. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1. Peter (work) at a fast food restaurant last month.
2. My classmates and I (be) at the cinema yesterday evening. The movie (be) great.
3. My best friend and I (not/dance) at the party last Saturday.
4. This time last year I (surf) in Miami.
5. When we (hear) the alarm, we (shop).
6. I (run into) a friend while I (walk) to school.
7. Bill (break) his leg while he (play) baseball.
8. While he (ride) in the forest, he (feel) something strange behind his shoulders. He immediately (stop) his horse and (look) around.

B. Make sentences using the prompts.

1. Ralph/ swim in the sea/ he/ see a dolphin
While
2. the girls/ walk by the lake/ they/ meet Joe
While
3. Sally/ hear the gunshot/ she/ read in bed
When
4. my cousin/ find the cat/ he/ go to the gym
When
5. the man/ wait for a bus/ someone/ kill him
While