

Simple Past vs. Past Continuous

We use the **simple past** to talk about:

Completed actions, **habits** and **facts** in the past.

- I **went** to the cinema **yesterday**.
- I **always visited** my grandparents in my summer holidays **when I was little**.
- I **lived** near Liverpool for a couple of years.

The **past continuous** is used to express:

Interrupted actions, **specific time** as an **interruption** and **parallel** actions.

- I **was watching** TV **when** the phone rang.
- **Last night at 7pm**, I **was having** dinner.
While she **was doing** her homework her brother **was playing** football.

Complete the sentences with the correct verb form; past Simple or Past Continuous

1. When Tim arrived (arrive), Karen was waiting (wait) for him.
2. The students were chatting (chat) when the teacher came (come) in.
3. While Phil was driving (drive) home, he saw (see) an accident.
4. Liz was reading (read) a magazine when her phone rang (ring).
5. The lights went (go) off while Sam was watching (watch) a film.
6. It was raining (rain) when John and Mary went (go) out.
7. My little brother ate (eat) two burgers while my father wasn't looking (not look).
8. The sun was shining (shine) in the morning, so they decided (decide) to go to the park.

Think about your past weekend, and write about all the things you did.

Watch Video #13 and complete the script.

On a cold dark night Alisa (1) _____ late at the office. It (2) _____ already midnight when she finally (3) _____ her work. As she (4) _____ her office, she (5) _____ that the streets (6) _____ now empty. She (7) _____ all alone. While she (8) _____ back home, she (9) _____ some footsteps behind her. She (10) _____ round to look but no one (11) _____ there. So she continued walking, but she (12) _____ still hear footsteps behind her. She started to run but the footsteps behind her (13) _____ louder and faster. Someone (14) _____ her. As she _____ her. As she (15) _____, she (16) _____ a cemetery. She quickly (17) _____ into the cemetery and (18) _____ there. When Alisa (19) _____, the footsteps (20) _____. Then she remembered that there was a 24-hour convenience store nearby, so she quickly (21) _____ to the store to ask for help. She (22) _____ inside and (23) _____ the man for help. But the man said to her: 'Lady, the footsteps are yours. The soles of your shoes (24) _____ off!'