

talking about the past

past simple

positive

I/He/She/It/We/You/They	helped	at the event.
I/He/She/It/We/You/They	went	to the event.

negative

I/He/She/It/We/You/They	didn't help	at the event.
I/He/She/It/We/You/They	didn't go	to the event.

questions

Did	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	help at the event?
Did	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	go to the event?

short answers

Yes,	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	did.
No,	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	didn't.

We use the past simple to talk about:

- an action that started and finished in the past.
David **finished** his maths homework.
- one completed past action after another.
I **got** home and **sat** down.
- a past habit or regular past event.
Maria and Eva **visited** the lake everyday on their holiday.

Note: Look at the spelling changes:

help – helped	practise – practised
study – studied	chop – chopped

past continuous

positive

I/He/She/It	was	waiting
We/You/They	were	

negative

I/He/She/It	wasn't	waiting
We/You/They	weren't	

PRACTICE

past simple

1 Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

- I (see) my friend last night.
- I (enjoy) the book more than the film.
- The lesson (not end) on time.
- We (speak) Italian when we were on holiday.
- Where (you/be) last night?
- I (not want) the night to end.

questions

Was	I/he/she/it	
Were	we/you/they	waiting?

short answers

Yes,	I/he/she/it	was
	we/you/they	were
No,	I/he/she/it	wasn't
	we/you/they	weren't

We use the past continuous to:

- talk about an action in progress in the past.
I was playing video games.
- We **were eating** breakfast.
- set the scene in a story.
The sun was shining.

My dad and brother were watching TV.

We use the **past simple** for an action that interrupts or happens during another action in progress in the past. For the action in progress, we use the **past continuous**.

Claudette was studying in Pisa when she **met** Katerina.

We can use **while** instead of **when**, but we put **while** before the past continuous verb.

Dan heard the news while he was reading through his social media account.

When Dan heard the news, he was reading through his social media account.

stative verbs

We don't usually use stative verbs in the past continuous form. See page 126 for more information on stative verbs.

past continuous

3 Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- What (you/do) at this time last week?
- I (not consider) entering the competition.
- (your sister/play) tennis in the park on Saturday?
- The internet (not work) at home, so I couldn't go online.
- (it/rain) on your way home yesterday?
- I had the TV switched on, but I (not pay) attention to it.

4 Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- I (do) the washing-up while I was listening to the song.
- When I (come) in, my friends were waiting for me.
- I (tidy) my room when the phone rang.
- Our team (win) until the others scored in the last minute.
- It (rain) when I went out for a walk yesterday morning.
- The sun (shine) when we left the house.