

## talking about the past

### past simple

#### positive

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

#### negative

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

#### questions

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

#### short answers

<b>Yes,</b>	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	<b>did</b>
<b>No,</b>	I/he/she/it/we/you/they	<b>didn't</b>

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	<b>was</b>	waiting.
We/You/They	<b>were</b>	

#### negative

I/He/She/It	<b>wasn't</b>	waiting.
We/You/They	<b>weren't</b>	

#### questions

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

#### short answers

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

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.

# 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.

## 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.