1 Past simple

+	verb + *-ed**	*I **wanted** it.*
–	*did not* + verb	*I **didn't want** it.*
?	*did* ... + verb?	*What **did** you **want**?*

*Regular verbs add *-ed* or *-d* to the verb:
want → *wanted* *hope* → *hoped*

Many common verbs are irregular (➢ See Web page: Irregular verbs):
think → *thought* *make* → *made*

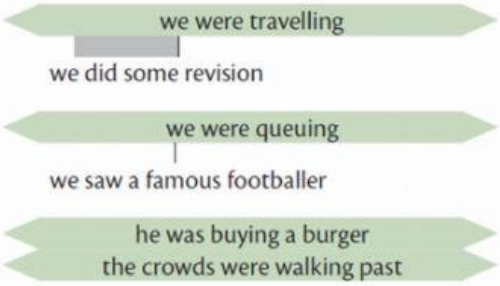
To be is irregular:
am/is (not) → *was (not);* *are (not)* → *were (not)*

We use the past simple:

- for completed actions and events in the past:
  *We **had** an exam on Thursday.*
  *We **caught** the coach.*
- for a sequence of actions or events:
  *I **went** round the shops, then I **went** to the cinema.*
- for permanent or long-term situations in the past:
  *I really **enjoyed** myself when I **was** a teenager.*
- for repeated events:
  *Jack's grandmother **went** to lots of concerts.*
  *She always **asked** for an autograph when she **met** someone famous.*

2 Past continuous

+	*was/were* + verb + *-ing*	*They **were waiting**.*
–	*was/were not* + verb + *-ing*	*She **wasn't waiting**.*
?	*was/were* ... + verb + *-ing*?	***Were** you **waiting**?*



We use the past continuous:

- for an activity beginning before a past action and continuing until or after it. The action is usually in the past simple:
  *We did some revision while we **were travelling**.*
  *When we **were queuing** for the cinema, we saw a famous footballer.*
- for two things happening at the same time:
  *He **was buying** a burger and all the crowds **were walking** past.*
- for repeated events, with a word like *always* or *continually*, especially if the speaker is criticising the activity:
  *She **was always worrying** about her homework.* (= Jack's grandmother thinks she worried too much.)
- for unfulfilled plans, with verbs like *hope*, *plan*, etc.:
  *I **was hoping** to find a new jacket.* (= but I didn't find one)

⚠ State verbs are nearly always used in the past simple, not the past continuous (➢ see Unit 1, B3):
I didn't know him. (**not** ~~*I wasn't knowing him*~~)

2 Fill in the gaps with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs.

My parents ___got___ (*get*) to know each other when they ___were studying___ (*study*) at university.

Doctor Fisher _____ (*travel*) widely as a young man and _____ (*always keep*) a diary.

I _____ (*see*) my brother and his friend when I _____ (*wait*) for the bus, but they _____ (*not see*) me.

Lily _____ (*fill*) in the application form and _____ (*give*) it to the receptionist.

While I _____ (*work*) in Rome, I _____ (*meet*) a girl who _____ (*look*) just like your sister.

Simon _____ (*buy*) a new laptop because his old one _____ (*always crash*).

I _____ (*miss*) your text because my phone _____ (*charge*) in another room.

Anna's feeling depressed because she _____ (*hope*) for a pay rise last week, but she _____ (*not get*) one.

The lights _____ (*go*) out while she _____ (*have*) a party in her house.

She _____ (*go*) quietly out of her bedroom and _____ (*stand*) behind the door so she could hear what they were saying.

I _____ (*hope*) my colleagues would say 'happy birthday' when I got to work, but nobody _____ (*say*) anything.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Review IRREGULAR VERBS

1 Complete the text with the past simple form of these verbs.

be ~~begin~~ come drink eat explain feed find get give go have know learn meet read seem speak spread write

The mystery of Kaspar Hauser



The mystery of Kaspar Hauser **(1)** began in Nuremberg, Germany, about 200 years ago. One morning, the people of the town **(2)** _____ a young man standing alone in the square. He was holding a piece of paper in his hand. The paper **(3)** _____ only that he **(4)** _____ the son of a soldier. Kaspar **(5)** _____ how to say a few words and when given a paper and pencil he **(6)** _____ his name, but he **(7)** _____ completely ignorant about everyday life. At first he **(8)** _____ only bread and **(9)** _____ only water, but he gradually **(10)** _____ used to ordinary meals. He also **(11)** _____ to talk properly.

The real truth about his birth remains a mystery, but it is probable that his father kept him in one small room for the whole of his early life. He **(12)** _____ him on bread and **(13)** _____ him water to drink. Kaspar never **(14)** _____ out, he never **(15)** _____ to anyone or **(16)** _____ other children. In spite of this extraordinary childhood, Kaspar was not stupid. He **(17)** _____ books and **(18)** _____ discussions with teachers and philosophers. News about Kaspar **(19)** _____ through Europe and visitors **(20)** _____ from abroad to meet him.

3 ***used to* + verb and *would* + verb**

+	*used to* + verb	*He **used to read** comics.*
–	*did not use to* + verb	*We **didn't use to read** comics.*
?	*did ... use to* + verb?	***Did** you **use to read** comics?*

+	*would* + verb	*He **would read** comics.*
–	*would not* + verb	*We **wouldn't read** comics.*
?	*would ...* + verb?	***Would** you **read** comics?*

We use *used to* and *would* to talk about past habits when we are emphasising that they are no longer true:
*I **used to collect** all the autographs of film stars when I was a teenager.* (= she doesn't do this now)
*I **would go** up to town on my own.* (= she doesn't do this now)

Used to can describe actions and states, but *would* can only describe actions:
*All the teenagers **used to / would scream** at pop concerts.*
*They **used to be** crazy about the Beatles.* (**not** ~~*would be crazy*~~)

⚠ Notice the position of frequency adverbs (➢ see Unit 8) with *used to*:
*I **often used to study** on my own.* (**not** ~~*I used to often study*~~)

⚠ *Used to* is much more common than *would*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 *be/get used to + -ing* or noun

Be used to means 'be accustomed to'. It can be past, present or future, unlike *used to*, which is a past tense.
I'm used to working at weekends. (= I often work at weekends, it's normal for me now)

The question form is:
***Are** you **used to working** at weekends?*

Get used to means 'gradually become accustomed to'. It can be past, present or future, unlike *used to*, which is a past tense.
*My new school starts at 7.30. I'm not used to starting classes so early but I guess **I'll** soon **get used to doing** it.*
(= My previous school started later, but I'll soon become accustomed to the change and it won't bother me.)

Be/get used to can be followed by *-ing* or by a noun/pronoun:
*He **wasn't used to criticism** and found it hard to accept.*
(= People hadn't criticised him before so he didn't like it.)
*My parents **are getting used to** a quiet **house**, now the children have all left home.*
(= When the children first left, my parents found the house strangely quiet, but it's gradually becoming normal for them.)

3 Choose the correct form of the verbs in this text.

My granny is 93 and she's come to live with us at our house. We're all pleased because we love having her near us. She's a very independent person and until this year, she (1) *refused / was refusing* to move to the flat on our ground floor. But last month she suddenly (2) *changed / was changing* her mind and I (3) *asked / would ask* her why. She explained that for years, nobody in her village (4) *would lock / was locking* their front doors and the place (5) *used to feel / would feel* safe, but last month (6) she *met / was meeting* a neighbour in the street when she (7) *was walking / would walk* home from the shops and (8) *heard / was hearing* some bad news. Thieves (9) *were breaking / got used to breaking* into people's houses while they (10) *were sitting / would sit* in their back gardens.

She (11) *realised / was realising* that she (12) *wasn't wanting / didn't want* to live alone any more. She (13) *isn't used / didn't use* to being in the town yet, but it's not as difficult as she (14) *was thinking / thought* it might be, and she loves seeing us more often.

4 Fill in the gaps with a suitable form of *be/get used* to.

1 Rita's very tired this morning. She isn't used to (*not*) going to bed late.
2 Don't worry about the children: they _____ going to school by bus.
3 My new boss _____ giving orders, not receiving them.
4 She _____ (*not*) drinking very strong coffee and it made her ill.
5 _____ (*you*) our climate or do you still miss the sunshine?
6 I had never stayed in such an expensive hotel before, but I soon _____ it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS