

Grammar

Past Simple

A Read the sentences below. Which sentence has a regular verb in the Past Simple?

- 1 Natalie went to the shops, bought a pizza and took it home.
- 2 I cooked fish last week.
- 3 James had croissants for breakfast every day when he was in France.

B Match each sentence in A with one use of the Past Simple below.

- a past routines and habits
- b actions which happened one after the other in the past
- c actions or situations which started and finished in the past

Past Continuous

C Read the sentences below. How do we form the Past continuous?

- 1 Jennifer **was watching** TV while her mum **was cooking** dinner.
- 2 It **was raining**, the wind **was blowing** and we **were shaking** from the cold.
- 3 I **was making** coffee at seven o'clock this morning.
- 4 Dad **was chopping** carrots when the phone **rang**.

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D Match each sentence in C with one use of the Past Continuous below.

- a an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past.
- b two or more actions that were in progress at the same time in the past.
- c an action that was in progress in the past but was interrupted by another action.
- d to give background information in a story.

Be careful

Remember that we don't use stative verbs in continuous tenses.

F Write sentences with the Past Continuous in your notebooks.

- 1 the students / not eat / breakfast / in the classroom / this morning

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- 2 we / not have / lunch / at one o'clock today

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- 3 ? / you / make / cupcakes / all morning

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- 4 this time last week / we / sample / French cheese

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- 5 my sister / peel / potatoes / for hours this morning

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- 6 ? / Cathy / prepare / dinner / on her own / last night

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G Complete the sentences with the correct form of the Past Simple or the Past Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 We _____
(eat) some ice cream after we
_____ (finish) cleaning
the kitchen.
- 2 _____ (Joey / call)
you while you _____
(watch) Jamie Oliver's cookery programme?
- 3 My dad _____
(cook) dinner on Saturday because Mum
_____ (be) ill.
- 4 The children _____
(order) pizza when I _____
(walk) into their bedroom.
- 5 I _____ (not / fry) the
hamburgers, I _____
(grill) them. They're healthier that way.
- 6 Karen _____
(make) lunch while Peter
_____ (set) the table.
- 7 _____
(they / have) a barbeque when it
_____ (start) to rain?
- 8 _____ (you
/ order) a dessert after you
_____ (have) your
main course?