

Past Simple?



или Present Perfect?

PAST SIMPLE

We use the past simple:

◆ for actions which happened at a definite or stated time in the past; that is, we know when they happened.

They graduated four years ago

◆ for actions which happened repeatedly in the past but don't happen anymore. In this case we can use adverbs of frequency (always, often, usually, etc.).

He often played football with his dad when he was five. (But he doesn't play football with his dad anymore.)

◆ for actions which happened immediately one after the other in the past.

They cooked the first meal. Then they ate with their friends.

◆ to talk about people who are no longer alive.

Princess Diana visited a lot of schools.

EXERCISES

1. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the past simple. What use of the past simple does each sentence show?

1. Mother ...cleaned... (clean) the windows twice last week, (definite/stated time)

2. They (not/go) on holiday to Spain last year.

3. Tina(not/sing) in the school concert yesterday.

4. Paul often (fight) with his brother when they were young.

5. Mother Teresa..... (help) the poor people of India.

6. Her sister(bake) this beautiful cake on Monday.

7.(Sam/enjoy) his trip to Wales last weekend?

8. John (fall) and(hurt) his knee.

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2. Put the verbs in brackets in to the past simple.

Lesley 1) ...bought... (buy) her house two months ago. It is a beautiful cottage in the countryside. However, when Lesley 2) (decide) to buy it, it 3) (need) a lot of work. First, she 4) (decorate) all the rooms. Then, she 5) (plant) lots of flowers in the garden. After that, she 6)(make) new curtains for all the windows. When it was ready. she 7) (move) in. That was last week. Now Lesley is very happy.

Claude Monet 1) ...was... (be) a famous artist. He 2)(paint) lots of beautiful pictures in his lifetime. He often 3) (take) his paints and a canvas into the countryside. He 4) (love) to paint trees and rivers during the different seasons of the year. Monet 5) (create) a new kind of art called Impressionism. He 6) (die) in 1926, but many people still visit museums and galleries to look at his pictures.

USED TO

◆ Used to is used to talk about past habits or things that do not happen anymore. It has the same form in all persons, singular and plural. It is followed by infinitive.

Peter used to eat a lot of sweets. (= Peter doesn't eat many sweets any more.)

◆ We can use the past simple instead of "used to " with no difference in meaning.

She used to live in the countryside = She lived in the countryside.

EXERCISES

- 1. Complete the sentences with the correct form of used to and the verb in brackets .**
 1. I ...didn't use to watch... (not/watch) the news, but now I watch it every day.
 2. My aunt.....(drink) a lot of coffee, but now she prefers to drink tea.
 3. We (live) in a flat, but we live in a big house now.
 4. (you/go) to school on foot?
 5. We+..... (not/like) each other, but now we're good friends. +
 6. I ●..... (not/eat) vegetables. Now I eat them every day. ● ○
 7. My sister..... (play) the piano, but now she doesn't.
 8. They○.....(spend) their weekends in the countryside. They don't anymore.

REVISION

1. Jacques Cousteau....the oceans.
A explores B explored C is exploring
2. Toby.....a bicycle, but now he drives a car.
A is riding B used to ride C rides
3. Ian interesting book at the moment.
A don't read B read C am reading
4. Hehome early yesterday because he felt ill.
A went B is going C used to go
5. Mr Jones.....but he does now.
A used to travel B didn't use to travel C travelled
6. Ia noise, so I went to see what it was.
A heard B hear C am hearing
7. Bobby..... how to use a computer at present.
A learnt B is learning C learns
8. My parents.....to a party tonight.
A used to go B goes C are going
9. The ferry boat.....every day at quarter past two.
A leaves B leave C is leaving
10. I getting up early in the morning.
A likes B don't like C doesn't like



PAST CONTINUOUS

We use the past continuous:

◆ for an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past. We do not know when the action started or finished.

At three o'clock yesterday afternoon Mike and his son were washing the dog. (We do not know when they started or finished washing the dog.)

◆ for a past action which was in progress when another action interrupted it. We use the ⁺past continuous for the action in progress (longer action) and the past simple for the action which interrupted it (shorter action).

He ⁺was reading a newspaper when his wife came, (was reading = longer action; came = shorter action)

◆ for two or more actions which were happening at the same time in the past (simultaneous actions)

The people were watching while the cowboy was riding the bull.

◆ to give the background information in a story.

The sun was shining and the birds were singing. Tom was driving his old truck through the forest.

EXERCISES

1. Join the sentences using as, when or while, as in the example .

1 Tina was cooking. She burnt herself.

...As/When/While Tina was cooking, she burnt herself.

Tina was cooking when she burnt herself.

2 Laura was making some tea. She dropped the kettle.

3 Mrs Jason was sitting in the garden. It started raining.

4 Peter was driving his car. He got a flat tyre.

5 She was walking in the park. A dog attacked her.

3 Match Column A with Column B.

Column A	
1 While I was driving home,c.....
2 We were watching the children
3 He cut his finger
4 At eight o'clock yesterday morning
5 As she was crossing the street,
6 While they were talking ,

Column B	
a as he was chopping wood.	
b he was sleeping in his bed.	
c while they were playing,	
d she slipped and fell.	
e I ran out of petrol.	
f the doorbell rang.	

3. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or past continuous. Which is the longer action in each sentence?

1. As I ...was doing... (do) the washing-up, I ...broke... (break) a glass. - Doing the washing-up is the longer action
2. We (walk) in the woods when the storm (begin).
3. John(repair) his motorbike when his mother.....(arrive).
4. I..... (eat) my lunch when the phone..... (ring).
5. He.....(ride) his bicycle to school when h e (drop) his bag.
6. We.....(see) a bad accident as w e(drive) to the airport.
7. Tom.....(watch) the match when the T V(break down).
8. We (talk) when s h e (come) into the room.

4. Yesterday, the people in the picture had to wait two hours for their boat which was late. What were they doing while they were waiting? Look at the picture and describe it using the past continuous.



PAST SIMPLE VS PAST CONTINUOUS

Past simple	Past continuous
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a complete action at a stated time in the past. The plane landed at the airport at eight o'clock yesterday morning. (The time is stated. The action is complete. The plane landed.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an action which was in progress (was happening) at a stated time in the past. We do not know when the action started or finished. At nine o'clock yesterday morning, the plane was flying to Tahiti from New York. (We do not know when it left or reached its destination.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• actions which happened immediately one after the other in the past. First she read the advertisement and then she called the company.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• two actions which were happening at the same time in the past. He was listening carefully while they were explaining the plan to him.

EXERCISES

1. Put the verbs in brackets into the past continuous or the past simple.

1 We ...went... (go) swimming every week when we were young.

2 Simon.....(dance) when he fell and hurt his leg.

3 Why (you/laugh) all through your history lesson yesterday?

4 I (drink) a glass of milk every day when I was a child.

5 Todd often(ride) horses when he was a boy.

6 Bill (write) a letter when his mother came home.

7 It(rain) while I was waiting for the bus.

8 I(play) the guitar when I was young, but I don't anymore.

9 Debbie(sing) in the school choir many years ago.

10 Liz(clean) the windows when I saw her.

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2. Put the verbs in brackets into the past continuous or the past simple.

A Steve 1) ...had... (have) an accident yesterday. He (drive) his car when a bird (fly) into the windscreen. He ...(try) to stop quickly but he..... (crash) into a wall. Luckily, he ...(not/be) hurt.

B Last week. I ...(go) to a talk by a famous writer. He ...(talk) about his new book when I ...(arrive). He ...(give) such an interesting talk that I... (be) disappointed when it...(end).

C Julie ...(tidy) her bedroom last weekend. While she...(tidy) it, she... (find) some of the toys she...(have) when she was a child. She...(not/want) to throw them away, so she...(put) them in a box and...(store) them in the attic.

3. Put the verbs in brackets into the past continuous or the past simple .

It ...was... (be) a beautiful spring morning when Emma and her father... (decide) to visit Seaton Castle. The sun... (shine) and the birds... (sing). Emma... (feel) very excited. The castle...(be) very old and made of stone. They...(climb) the steps to the top of the tower. While they... (admire) the view, they... (hear) some noises. They... (look) around but they ...(not/see) anybody. That's funny,' said Emma. 'I...(think) I...(see) someone standing over there.' After a while they... (decide) to visit the cellar of the castle. Emma... (examine) an old barrel when she...(hear) the door of the cellar close behind them. 'Dad,' she...(say), don't close the door!' 'But. I... (not/close) it, dear,' her father said. Emma...(turn) around and...(see) a shadow on the wall. She...(know) then that the ghost of Seaton Castle+(watch) them!

4. Correct the mistakes.

- 1 Philip was washing the car while the fire started.
- 2 Neil was studying when his sister was listening to music.
- 3 Harriet was opening the door and walked into the house.
- 4 We were having lunch at a lovely restaurant every day when we were on holiday.
- 5 Brian drank tea at five o'clock yesterday afternoon.
- 6 Dad was repairing the TV while Mum cooked dinner.
- 7 I was going to the cinema last Saturday.
- 8 I was buying a new dress for my party yesterday.
- 9 While Jeff built the garden shed, he hurt himself.
- 10 While the teacher were speaking, the students were listening to him.

REVISION

1. Put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous, present simple, past simple or past continuous.

1. I ...was cleaning... (clean) the windows when the telephone.....(ring).

2 'What is that noise?' 'James..... (repair) his bike at the moment.'

3 He(read) a book when his mother.....(call) him.

4 '..... (be) you busy?' 'No. What..... (you/want) me to do?'

5 They⁺.....(sing) while we(play) some music. ○

6 Susan is a nurse. She usually (work) at night. ●

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PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

◆ for actions which happened at an unstated time in the past. The exact time is not mentioned because it is not important. We put more emphasis on the action.

Kim has bought a new mobile phone. (When did she buy it? We don't mention the exact time because it is not important. What is important is the fact that she's got a new mobile phone.)

◆ for actions which started in the past and are still continuing in the present.

He has been a car salesman since 1990. (He started working as a car salesman in 1990, and he still is a car salesman.)

◆ for actions which have recently finished and their results are visible in the present.

They have done their shopping. (We can see that they have finished their shopping because they're leaving the supermarket and there are bags in their trolley.)

◆ with today, this morning/afternoon, etc. when these periods of time are not finished at the time of speaking.

He has made ten pots this morning. (It is still morning so this period of time is not finished.)

EXERCISES

I. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the present perfect simple.

1. A: Have you ever given an interview? B: No, I ...have never done... (never/do) that.
2. A: What time does the train leave? B: I t(just/leave)!
3. A: Is the new restaurant good? B: I(not/eat) there yet.
4. A: Shall I do the shopping now? B: No, I(already/do) it.
5. A: Julia, are you ready? B: No, I(not/dry) my hair yet. +
6. A: Would you like to have lunch with me? B: No. thanks. I (already/eat).

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Have gone (to) - Have been (to)



- ◆ They **have gone to** the cinema. (This means that they haven't come back yet. They are still at the cinema.)
- ◆ She **has been to** London. (This means that she has visited London; she is not there now. She has come back.)

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1. Fill in the gaps with have/has been (to) or have/has gone (to).

1 'Where are Tom and Lucy?' They ...have gone to... the theatre.'

2 I don't live in London. I only there once.

3 I am alone in the house. My parents..... on holiday.

4 'Is Philip at home?' 'No, h e work.'

5 My friend wants us to go on holiday to Madrid this summer, but Ialready there.

6 Anita has just come home. She the theatre.

7 'Where are Julia and Dave?' T h e y the sports centre with their friends.'

PAST SIMPLE VS PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

Past simple	Present perfect simple
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an action which happened at a stated time in the past. Ed Prior won his first gold medal in 1992. (When? In 1992. The time is mentioned.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an action which happened at an unstated time in the past. Ed Prior has won a lot of medals. (When? We don't know. The time is not stated.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an action which started and finished in the past. Annette had a cold for two days. (She hasn't got a cold any more.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an action which started in the past and is still continuing in the present. Lucy has had a cold for three days. (She has still got a cold.)

EXERCISES

1. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the present perfect simple .
 1. A: I ...went... (go) to the new gym yesterday.
 1. B: It's good, isn't it? I...(go) there a few times.
 2. A:..... (you/write) to Simon lately?
 1. B: Yes, I..... (write) him a letter last week.
 3. A: How long.....(you/be) married? B
 1. B: Only for six months. I(get) married last December.
 4. A: I.... (not/see) Sam for a long time.
 1. B: Really? I (see) him yesterday at the swimming pool.
 5. A:(you/type) the report yet?
 1. B: Yes, I (finish) it half an hour ago.
 6. A: Mary..... (know) Steven for six years.
 1. B: When.....(they/meet)? A: When they (be) at university together.
 7. A:(you/ever/play) rugby?
 1. B: Yes. I have. I(play) for the first time last week.
 8. A: James.....(write) a new book last year.
 1. B: I know. I(read) some great reviews about it in the newspaper.

