



Past Simple

POSITIVE -> Subject + V2 + ...

NEGATIVE -> Subject + didn't + V1 + ...

QUESTION -> Did + Subject + V1 + ... ?

Uses:

1. Completed Actions in the Past:

She visited her grandmother last weekend.

This indicates that the visit started and finished in the past.

2. Series of Completed Actions:

He woke up, brushed his teeth, and left for work.

This shows a sequence of actions that happened one after another.

3. Specific Time in the Past:

I saw the movie last night.

The action of seeing the movie happened at a specific time.

4. Duration in the Past (often with for, during, etc.):

He lived in Paris for five years.

This indicates that he stayed in Paris for a specific duration in the past.

5. Habits in the Past:

When I was a child, I played outside every day.

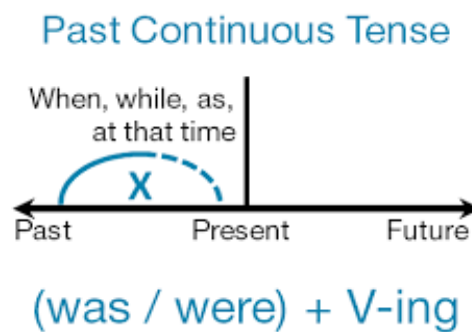
This shows a repeated action that was a habit in the past.



Signal Words:

- Often, the past simple tense is used with time expressions like: yesterday, last week, last year, in 2010, when, then, etc.

Past Continuous



Uses:

1. Ongoing Action in the Past:

At 8 PM last night, I was watching TV."

This shows an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past.

2. Interrupted Actions:

I was reading a book when she called.

This indicates that the reading was ongoing and was interrupted by the phone call.

3. Parallel Actions:

While she was cooking, he was cleaning.

This shows two actions happening at the same time.



4. Background Information:

The sun was shining, and the birds were singing."

This sets the scene by describing ongoing background actions.

5. Repeated Actions with Irritation:

He was always talking during the meetings."

This indicates a repeated action in the past, often with a sense of irritation.

Signal Words:

- Commonly used with time expressions such as: while, when, as, at that moment, all day, all night, etc.

Comparison:

Past Simple vs. Past Continuous:

- **Focus on Completion vs. Progress:**
 - **Past Simple:** Focuses on the completion of an action.
 - **Example:** "I finished my homework."
 - **Past Continuous:** Focuses on the ongoing nature or progress of an action.
 - **Example:** "I was finishing my homework when you called."
- **Specific Time vs. Background:**
 - **Past Simple:** Indicates a specific moment or series of actions.
 - **Example:** "He left the party early."
 - **Past Continuous:** Often provides the background context for another action.
 - **Example:** "He was leaving the party when it started to rain."
- **Interrupted Actions:**
 - **Example Combined:** "I was having dinner (past continuous) when the phone rang (past simple)."

- The ongoing action (having dinner) is interrupted by another action (phone rang).

Past Simple

Completed actions, habits and facts in the Past

- They went to the cinema yesterday.
- When I was little, I always visited my grandparents in the village.
- Angela lived in Bangkok for a year.

Past Continuous

Interrupted actions, specific time, parallel actions

- I was watching youtube when the phone rang.
- Mike was cooking dinner last night at 7 pm.
- While Marina was washing up, her daughter was playing games.

Example:

Last Saturday, I decided to visit my grandparents who live in the countryside. The weather was perfect, so I packed my bag and left early in the morning. As I was driving, I noticed the beautiful scenery around me. The sun was shining brightly, and birds were singing in the trees.

When I arrived at my grandparents' house, they were working in the garden. My grandmother was planting flowers, and my grandfather was trimming the hedges. They were both surprised and happy to see me. We spent the afternoon together, talking and laughing.

While we were having lunch, my grandmother told me stories about her childhood. She used to play in the same garden where we were sitting. As she was talking, I could imagine her as a young girl, running around and enjoying the fresh air.

In the evening, we watched the sunset together. The sky was turning orange and pink, and it was a beautiful sight. I felt very relaxed and content. Later, we had a delicious dinner, and then I headed back home, feeling grateful for the wonderful day I had spent with my grandparents.