

Past Simple or Past Continuous

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Past Simple is used with the following time expressions:

Yesterday, ago, last, then, when, in 1998
etc.

Past Simple

- ▶ for past habits or states which are now finished
Schools were very different a hundred years ago.



Past Simple

- ▶ actions which happened immediately one after another

She paid the driver and got out of the taxi.




Past Simple

- ▶ action which happened at a definite time in the past

They went camping last month.





Past Continuous is used with following time expressions:

While, when, as, all morning/evening/day, etc.

Past Continuous

- ▶ for an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past

They were having dinner at 7 o'clock yesterday evening.



Past Continuous

- ▶ for an action which was in progress when another action interrupted it

He was walking down the street when he ran into his old friend.



Past Continuous

- ▶ for two or more simultaneous past actions

She was talking on the phone while she was driving.



PAST SIMPLE vs PRESENT PERFECT

Past Simple

+ 😊 V2(ed).

? Did 😊 V1?

- 😊 did not V1.

yesterday, ago, last,
in 2000


Present Perfect

+ 😊 have/has V3(ed).


? Have/has 😊 V3(ed)?

- 😊 have/has not V3(ed)

already, never, yet, just,
ever



Past Simple / Past Continuous (Grammar Test)





1. John dinner when the telephone ...

- a) was cooking / ring
- b) cooked / was ringing
- c) was cooking / rang




2. I to explain the rule when Pam ...

- a) tried / came
- b) were trying / came
- c) was trying / came



3. We ... football yesterday from 4 till 6.

- a) was playing
- b) played
- c) were playing



4. My father ... my mother on the 1st of April.

- a) meeted
- b) met
- c) was meeting



5. I wasn't ... a book yesterday at 3.

- a) read
- b) reading
- c) readed



6. She ... her baby stories when the window ...

- a) was reading / opened
- b) was reading / opening
- c) was read / open



7. Kathy ... off the ladder when she ... the wall.

- a) fell / was painting
- b) falled / painted
- c) was falling / painted



8. While we ... tea, it ... to rain.

- a) was have / starting
- b) were having / starting
- c) were having / started



9. The car ... down while they ... along the road.

- a) broke / were driving
- b) was breaking / drove
- c) broked / was driving



10. When we ... a Christmas Tree, Santa Claus ...

- a) was decorating / come
- b) were decorating / came
- c) decorated / was coming