

Past Simple

① S + V₂ + O

write → wrote

② S + didn't + V + O do → did
did not

③ ? Did + S + V + O

mw V₂ V₂ w

Have	→	Had
Swim	→	Swam
Go	→	went
make	→	made
put	→	put

V₃
Had
Swam
gone
made
put

Completed actions in the past

We use the past simple to talk about actions or events that happened in the past. We know or we say when the events happened.

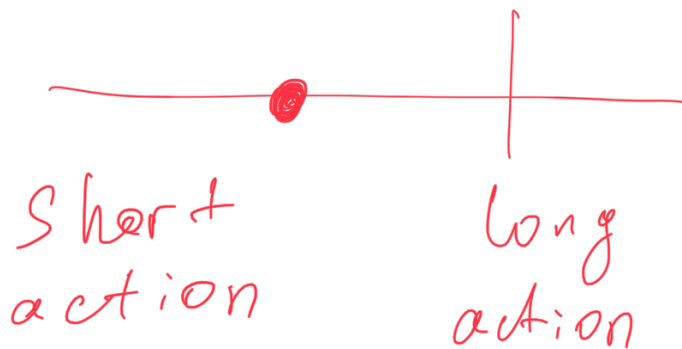
- I **saw** Jim yesterday.
- We **didn't go out** last Saturday. We **stayed** at home.
- She **moved** to Chester three years ago.

Past habits



We use the past simple to talk about past habits (things that we did more or less often).

- She **washed** her hair every day.
- She **worked** as a nurse.
- I often **played** in the park when we were children.



Situations that were true in the past

Fact or Perm.
situations

We also use the past simple to talk about things that were true in the past.

- My grandfather **had** two brothers.
- He **lived** with my grandparents as a child.

Events in chronological order

We use the past simple to describe the main events of a story in chronological order.

- When I **arrived** home, I **took off** my shoes and then I **relaxed** on the sofa



Yesterday, I bought a ticket, went to the concert, and had a fun

- We show when, completed act. in the past
- Habits in the past
- Facts / Permanent Sit. in the past
- Chronological order.
- Stative verbs

Actions in progress

We use the past continuous to talk about **actions** that were **in progress** (not finished) at a specific moment **in the past**.

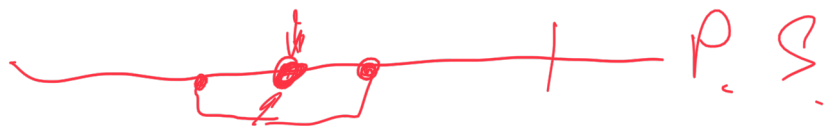
- 'What **were** you **doing** at 9?' 'I **was studying**.'
- When I saw them yesterday, they **were arguing**.

The specific moment in the past can be described by a **time expression** (at 9 a.m., at midday, at lunchtime, all morning, all day, etc.):

- They were swimming **at 7 in the morning**.
- **At midday** they were still working.

Or by a **simple past sentence**:

- They were swimming **when I saw them**.
- **When she arrived**, they were still working.



P. S.
short

P. C.

Long action

when I was
jogging, I met my
friend




Describing a scene

We often use the past continuous at the beginning of a story to describe the situation.

- *It **was getting** dark, and I **was walking** fast. Suddenly ...*

Past simple vs Past continuous

We use the **past simple** for **completed actions in the past**, and we use the past continuous for **actions in progress** (not finished) in the past. 

- We **ate out** yesterday. (the action is finished)
- We **were eating** at 9. (the action was not finished)

The past continuous describes a longer action or situation and the past simple describes a shorter action or event.

- When I **met** Susan she **was having** a drink at a terrace with a friend.
- We **didn't go out** because it **was raining**.

The short action in past simple often interrupts the longer action in past continuous.

- He **was playing** football when he **broke** his arm.
- When I **went** to bed, it **was raining**.



We use the past simple for completed actions that happened one after the other. Compare:

- When he **arrived**, she **was having** a shower.

(The action of having a shower started **before** he arrived)



- When he **arrived**, she **had** a shower.

(The action of having a shower started **after** he arrived)



When I ① (arrive) at the station, Raimond ② (wait) for me. He ③ (wear) a nice black suit and he ④ (hold) a red rose in his right hand. When I ⑤ (get off) the train, he ⑥ (run) up to me and ⑦ (kiss) me passionately. It ⑧ (rain) heavily so he ⑨ (take off) his jacket and ⑩ (put) it over my head. I ⑪ (tell) Raimond to go to a café so that we could talk, but he ⑫ (insist) on going to another place.

While he ⑬ (drive), I ⑭ (throw) a look at him. He ⑮ (smile), but he also ⑯ (look) nervous.

He finally ⑰ (stop) his car on the top of a hill with fantastic views. It was so wonderful. We ⑱ (get out) of the car, and he ⑲ (kneel) in front of me and ⑳ (take) a ring out of his pocket. "Kathy, will you..." he said. "Listen, Raimond, I want to break up with you," I interrupted.

