

Past simple vs past continuous

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Past simple vs past continuous

Past simple

We use the past simple when we want to say that an action occurred in the past.

The

- For regular verbs add -ed.
- Irregular verbs have their own forms – these need to be memorised

Example

-Jules lived in Paris last year. -We attended the meeting yesterday

Past continuous with simple

The structure of the past continuous when it is used together with the past simple.

We use the following structure

It is

Subject + auxiliary verb + -ing form of verb + conjunction + past simple

Past continuous: use

- The past continuous is commonly used to talk about something that was happening at a particular time in the past. ■ past continuous sentences often include the past simple tense. The past simple describes the action while the past continuous describes the longer activity in the background. ■ often, the action in the past simple part of the sentence interrupts the action described in the past continuous tense.

Negative form

The negative form of the past continuous adds the word not between the auxiliary verb (in this case to be) and the main verb.

It is

Subject + auxiliary verb + not + -ing form of the verb + rest of sentence

Example

- I wasn't working when you came to my desk. ■ He was not eating when the phone rang. ■ They were not sitting in the room before the meeting started.