

Past Simple

(I did)

Very often the past simple ends in **-ed** (regular verbs):

- We invited them to our party, but they decided not to come.
- But many verbs are **irregular**. The past simple does not end in -ed.
- Write/wrote/written
- See/saw/seen etc.

In questions and negatives we use **did/didn't**+ infinitive.

- Did you go out last night?
 - Yes, I went to the cinema, but I don't enjoy the film much.
 - Did you have time to do the shopping?
 - No, I didn't.
-
- In following example, do is the main verb in sentence:
 - I didn't do anything.

Exercises

- Dave (fall) down the stairs this morning and (hurt) his leg.
- I was in hurry, so (have) time to phone you.
- I knew Sarah was busy, so I (disturb) her.
- How did you learn to drive? My father (teach) me.

Answers

- Dave fell down the stairs this morning and hurt his leg.
- I was in hurry, so I didn't have time to phone you.
- I knew Sarah was busy, so I didn't disturb her.
- How did you learn to drive? My father taught me.

Past Continuous

(I was doing)

Was/were + ing is the past continuous.

- Yesterday Karen and Jim Played tennis. They started at 10 o'clock and finished at 11:30.
- So, at 10:30 they were playing tennis.
- They were playing = they were in the middle of playing. They had not finished playing.

I was doing smth

- I was doing smth = I was in the middle of doing smth at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this time, but had not finished:
- This time last year I was living in Brazil.
- I waved to Helen, but she wasn't looking.

We often use past simple and past continuous together to say that smth happened in the middle of smth else:

- Matt phoned while we were having dinner.
- It was raining when I got up.

- But we use the past simple to say that one thing happened after another:
- I was walking along the road when I saw Dan. So, I stopped, and we had a chat.

Some words are not normally used in the continuous:

- We **were** good friends. We **knew** each other well.
- (Not We were knowing)

Exercises

- I (cycle) home yesterday when a man (step) out into the road in front of me. I (go) quite fast, but luckily I (manage) to stop in time and (not/hit) him.
- I (see) Sue in town yesterday, but she (not/see) me. She (look) the other way.
- How fast (you/drive) when the accident (happen)?

Answers

- I was cycling home yesterday when a man stepped out into the road in front of me. I was going quite fast, but luckily I managed to stop in time and didn't hit him.
- I saw Sue in town yesterday, but she didn't see me. She was looking the other way.
- How fast were you driving when the accident happened?