



Past Simple v Past Continuous Tense Interactive Worksheet

Answers

In order to complete this worksheet, you should watch the series of grammar videos about the past simple v past continuous tenses in English. You should complete this worksheet at the same time as watching the videos.

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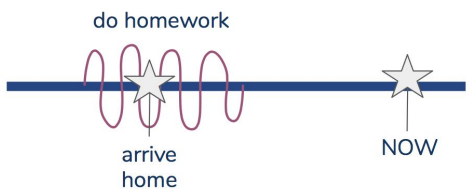
Video: Past Simple v. Past Continuous Use

EXERCISE A: Complete the table below. In column 1, you can see the uses of the past simple tense. In column 2, you can see the uses of the past continuous tense. Underneath each use, write an example sentence that demonstrates this use.


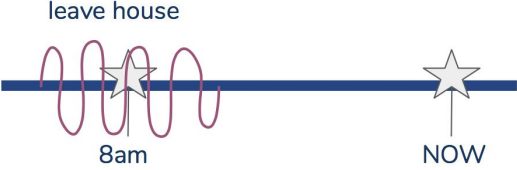
Past Simple	Past Continuous
Once in the past E.g. I went to Mexico last summer.	Before and after structure E.g. It was 7pm and I was having dinner.
Series of events E.g. I woke up, got dressed, brushed my teeth, had breakfast and went to school.	2 actions E.g. I was cooking while he was watching TV. He was doing his homework when I arrived home.
Duration in the past E.g. I lived in Barcelona for 3 years.	Long action E.g. It was raining all morning.

Past Simple	Past Continuous
Repeated in the past E.g. I drove to work every day.	Setting the scene E.g. It was raining outside, the trees were blowing in the wind, the wind was howling down the chimney and the house was shaking .
Changed state E.g. She was short as a child, but now she's tall .	Change and growth E.g. They were growing up so quickly.
Stative Verbs E.g. I wanted a puppy.	Verb to wonder E.g. I was wondering if you'd like to go out with me?



EXERCISE B: What is the difference in meaning between these two sentences? Fill in the table with the correct information. In column 1, you can see a sentence. In column 2, you should draw a timeline to represent this sentence and in column 3, you should explain the meaning of this sentence.

Sentence	Timeline	Explanation
When I arrived, he did his homework.	 <p>The diagram shows a horizontal timeline with three stars. The first star is labeled 'arrive home' below it. The second star is labeled 'do homework' below it. The third star is labeled 'NOW' below it. The stars are positioned sequentially along the timeline, indicating that the arrival happens first, followed by doing homework.</p>	Two events that happen one after another.
When I arrived, he was doing his homework.	 <p>The diagram shows a horizontal timeline with two stars. The first star is labeled 'arrive home' below it. The second star is labeled 'NOW' below it. A wavy line labeled 'do homework' is drawn above the timeline, starting before the first star and ending after the second star, indicating that the arrival and the homework are happening at the same time.</p>	Two events that happen at the same time. In this case, one interrupts the other.

EXERCISE C: What is the difference in meaning between these two sentences? Fill in the table with the correct information. In column 1, you can see a sentence. In column 2, you should draw a timeline to represent this sentence and in column 3, you should explain the meaning of this sentence.

Sentence	Timeline	Explanation
At 8am, I left the house.		The event happened at a specific time (8am).
At 8am, I was leaving the house.		The event happened during the specific time, so before and after too.

EXERCISE D: What is the difference in meaning between these two sentences? Fill in the table with the correct information. In column 1, you can see a sentence. In column 2, you should draw a timeline to represent this sentence and in column 3, you should explain the meaning of this sentence.

Sentence	Timeline	Explanation
They grew so quickly.		Comparing a past situation to a current situation.
They were growing so quickly.		Comparing two past situations and focusing on the event between these two time periods.



Video: Past Simple v Past Continuous Common Mistakes

EXERCISE A: Below is a set of incorrect sentences. Identify the mistake and write this in the space provided, then rewrite this sentence correctly in the second space provided.

1) We were driving to school every day.

MISTAKE: Repeated actions in the past require the past simple tense.

CORRECTION: I drove to school every day.

2) I was cooking when he was arriving.

MISTAKE: When is used with the past simple. While is used with the past continuous.

CORRECTION: I was cooking when he arrived.

CORRECTION: I was cooking while he was arriving.

3) I didn't swimming in the sea.

MISTAKE: Incorrect auxiliary verbs.

CORRECTION: I didn't swim in the sea.

CORRECTION: I wasn't swimming in the sea.