



Past Simple v Past Continuous Tense Interactive Worksheet

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. _____	Before and after structure E.g. _____
Series of events E.g. _____	2 actions E.g. _____
Duration in the past E.g. _____	Long action E.g. _____
Repeated in the past E.g. _____	Setting the scene E.g. _____

Past Simple	Past Continuous
Changed state E.g. _____	Change and growth E.g. _____
Stative Verbs E.g. _____	Verb to wonder E.g. _____

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.		
When I arrived, he was doing his homework.		

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.		
At 8am, I was leaving the house.		

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.		
They were growing so quickly.		



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: _____

CORRECTION: _____

2) I was cooking when he was arriving.

MISTAKE: _____

CORRECTION: _____

CORRECTION: _____

3) I didn't swimming in the sea.

MISTAKE: _____

CORRECTION: _____

CORRECTION: _____