



Past Simple v Past Continuous Review

Past simple and past continuous tenses are used to express something in the past time.

Past Simple	Past Continuous
Single past event <i>I went to Mexico last summer</i> <i>*A specific finished time</i>	Before/after structure <i>It was 7pm and I was having dinner</i> <i>*An approximate time</i>
Series of past events <i>I woke up, got dressed, had breakfast</i> <i>*Each action is finished before the next one</i>	2 actions <i>I was cooking while he was watching TV</i> <i>*Two events could be happening at the same time</i>
Past duration <i>I lived in Barcelona for 3 years</i>	Long past action <i>It was raining all morning</i>
Repeated past event <i>I drove to work every day</i>	Setting the scene <i>It was raining, the trees were blowing, the wind was howling</i>
Changed state <i>She was short as a child, but now she's tall</i> <i>*Past event compared to present</i>	Change and growth <i>They were growing up so quickly</i> <i>*Two past events compared</i>
Stative verbs <i>I wanted a puppy</i>	Verb "to wonder" <i>I was wondering if you'd like a coffee?</i>