



Past Simple v Past Continuous Common Mistakes



Past Tense Use

Let's take a look at the typical mistakes that English learners make in the past simple and past continuous tenses.

Past Tense Use



We were driving to school every day

Habits and regular activities that no longer happen should use the past simple tense instead.

Past Tense Use



We drove to school
every day



Past Tense Use



I was cooking when he was arriving

Many English learners mix up the tenses with “when” and “while”. When uses the past simple and while uses the past continuous.

Past Tense Use



I was cooking when he arrived

I was cooking while he was arriving



Past Tense Use



I didn't swimming in the sea

English learners tend to mix up the auxiliary verbs in these sentences, especially in the negative forms.

Past Tense Use

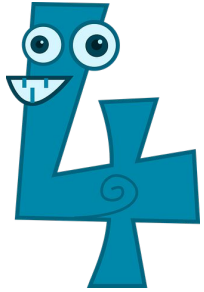


I didn't swim in the sea

I wasn't swimming in the
sea



Past Tense Use

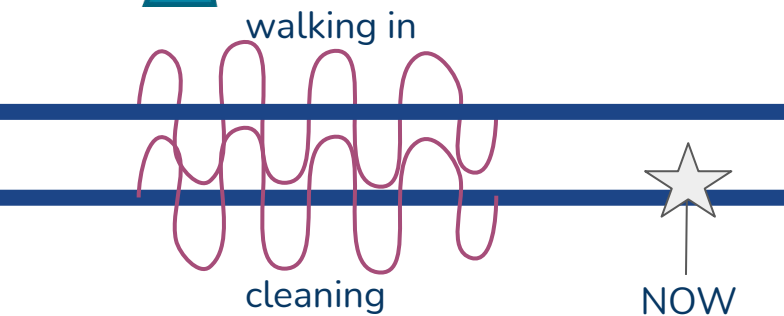


She was cleaning while I was walking in

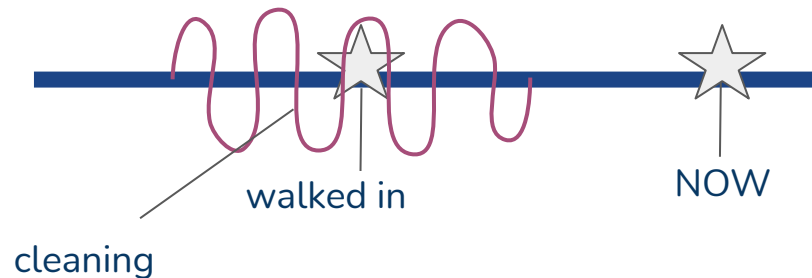
When two events happen in the past, it's essential to use the correct tenses to express the correct timeline.



Past Tense Use



She was cleaning while I
was walking in



she was cleaning
when I walked in



Past Tense Use



She cleaned while I was
walking in



when she cleaned, I walked in