

## PAST SIMPLE – To be

1. Look at the sentences and choose the correct option:

- a. *I/he/she/it* **was** in England in 2005.
- b. You/we/they **were** in England in 2005.
- c. There **was** a guitar.
- d. There **were** three drums.

2. Read the paragraph and choose the correct alternatives.

There **a. were** four people in the band Led Zeppelin. They **b. were** very popular, especially in America. But they **c. weren't** from America. They **d. were** British. Jimmy Page **e. was** the guitarist and Robert Plant **f. was** the vocalist. 2005 **g. was** a good year for Led Zeppelin. It **h. was** the year they **i. Were** the winners of the important Grammy award for lifetime achievement.

3. Complete the questions about the school. Use **was/were**:

- a. WERE you at school yesterday?
- b. What WAS the name of your English teacher last year?
- c. Who WAS your best friend when you WERE nine?
- d. When WAS your last English Exam?
- e. What WAS the name of your primary school?

## Past Simple / Regular – Irregular Verbs

4. Write the past form of the following verbs. Write I (irregular) and R (regular) next to them:

|                |                |                  |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Walk- WALKED   | Go- WENT       | Wash- WASHED     |
| Buy- BOUGHT    | See- SAW       | Need- NEEDED     |
| Put- PUT       | Paint- PAINTED | Think- THOUGHT   |
| Stay- STAYED   | Come- CAME     | Have- HAD        |
| Find- FOUND    | Like- LIKED    | Eat- ATE         |
| Watch- WATCHED | Leave- LEFT    | Play- PLAYED     |
| Do- DID        | Write- WROTE   | Take- TOOK       |
| Make- MADE     | Drink- DRANK   | Finish- FINISHED |

5. Complete Sophie and Carol's dialogue with the **past simple** of the verbs.

**Sophie:** Did you have a good weekend?

**Carol:** Yes, I did.

**Sophie:** What did you do on Saturday morning?

**Carol:** I went to the shops.

**Sophie:** Did you stay in on Saturday afternoon?

**Carol:** No, I didn't. Kate and I saw a film at the cinema. But we didn't like it.

**Sophie:** What about Sunday? Did you do anything special?

**Carol:** No. I watched a concert on TV but I didn't leave the house.

6. Complete the dialogue with the correct form of the **past simple**.

**Alex:** Hi Ben. What did you do last night?

**Ben:** I studied for the maths exam.

**Alex:** Really? I thought I saw you at the shopping centre.

**Ben:** No, I didn't go out.

**Alex:** Well, Chris and I went to the shops and I bought a new computer game. We didn't stay at the shops for long. But when we left we saw you and Sue at the café. I'm sure you kissed her.

**Ben:** OK, OK. I admit it! But it isn't what you think. I have to study Romeo and Juliet this term. She just explained me a part that I didn't understand.

**Alex:** Really? Well, it's a good story, Ben.

### **Past Simple - Past Continuous**

7. Complete the sentences and questions with the correct form of the **past continuous**.

- I was studying in the park yesterday.
- Jack wasn't playing games at the party.
- Peter and Sam were telling jokes.
- What were you doing at 10am yesterday?
- Were you studying at 10pm last night?
- What were your friends chatting about in the last break?

8. Read the paragraph and choose the correct alternatives.

My brother told me an embarrassing story. One day he **was hanging** out with his friends when he decided to have something to eat. They **were having** a hamburger

when he **saw** a beautiful girl at another table. She **was sitting** on her own. She looked familiar to my brother but he couldn't remember why. He **decided** to go and talk to her. They were chatting for a while and then he **asked** her which school she went to. She **said**, "Paul, don't you recognize me? I'm the new maths teacher at your school." When my brother looked at his friends they **were laughing** at him!

9. Complete the questions with the correct forms of the past continuous and past simple.
- What were your parents doing when you got up this morning?
  - What were your friends doing when you arrived at school this morning?
  - What was your mum doing when you got home yesterday afternoon?
  - What were you doing when your teacher walked into the classroom this morning?
  - What subject were you studying when the last class finished yesterday?
10. Put the verb in brackets in the correct form of the past continuous.

**Alice:** Who were you dancing with?

**Bob:** I wasn't dancing

**Alice:** Yes, you were. I was watching you.

**Bob:** Oh. Well, we weren't dancing I was teaching Sue how to dance salsa, that's all.

**Alice:** Oh, really? That's interesting because your friend George was asking me out to a salsa club just a minute ago.

11. Read this urban legend and put the verbs in the correct form of the past simple or past continuous.

A friend of mine told me this story. A new pop group was playing a concert in London. A funny thing happened in the middle of the concert. The singer was singing a Robbie Williams song, but in the middle of the song a man started to shout "You're terrible! Get off!". The singer started again but the man shouted "You are terrible. Stop singing!". For a long time the singer stopped and said "OK. If you're so good, you come up here and sing!". The man in the audience went up on stage with the group. It was Robbie Williams!

**1. Complete this chart:**

| Present | Past  | Present | Past   |
|---------|-------|---------|--------|
| have    | had   | begin   | began  |
| cut     | cut   | do      | did    |
| Take    | took  | leave   | left   |
| Steal   | stole | become  | became |
| drink   | drank | hear    | heard  |

|      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| put  | put   | write | wrote |
| Make | made  | say   | said  |
| Find | found | get   | got   |
| Run  | ran   | see   | saw   |
| Tell | told  | hold  | held  |

**2. Write the regular past form of the following verbs.**

|       |         |        |         |
|-------|---------|--------|---------|
| walk  | walked  | study  | studied |
| stop  | stopped | live   | lived   |
| like  | liked   | rob    | robbed  |
| wash  | washed  | change | changed |
| plan  | planned | enjoy  | enjoyed |
| close | closed  | smoke  | smoked  |
| carry | carried | cook   | cooked  |
| want  | wanted  | love   | loved   |

**3. Write these sentences in the negative form.**

- a. They opened their new shop last week.  
They didn't open ...
- b. Peter ran ten kilometres yesterday.  
Peter didn't run....
- c. He stopped that horrible noise.  
He didn't stop...
- d. The secretaries studied German last year.  
The secretaries didn't study...
- e. I left the party very early yesterday.  
I didn't leave ....
- f. They went on holiday last March.  
They didn't go...

**4. Fill in the blanks with the Past Simple of the correct verbs from the list.**

put up, cook, go (x2), make, take, collect, drink, meet, speak, play, feel, sing

Last weekend I 1. \_went camping with my friends. We 2. took tents and sleeping bags. Three of us 3. put up the tents while the others 4. collected wood and made a fire. We 6. cooked potatoes and 7. drank Coke. In the evening, Tom 8. played the guitar and everybody 9. sang songs. We 10. met some French tourists and 11. spoke to them in French. At about midnight, we all 12. felt sleepy, so we 13. went to bed.

## Past Continuous

### 1. Finish the following sentences: (free answers)

- a. When I got home, my mum was sleeping..
- b. I was playing the guitar while my brother was playing the drums.
- c. What were you doing yesterday at 5? I was working.
- d. When the teacher came into the classroom, my friend was shouting
- e. Peter was eating when the cat jumped on to the table.
- f. My parents were driving home when the accident happened.

### 2. Put the verbs in the past simple or past continuous:

When Andrew **1. arrived (arrive)** at Orly airport he 2. looked around but he 3. couldn't see anybody there to meet him. A lot of people in uniforms 4. were holding cards with names on them, but they 5. weren't waiting for him.

It 6. was a beautiful, sunny day and he 7. decided to go to the hotel on his own. He 8. went out of the airport and 9. looked for a taxi. A lot of people 10. were waiting, so he 11. decided to get the airport bus into Paris. The bus 12. stopped in the city centre, quite near his hotel and he 13. got off.

When he 14. was walking towards his hotel with his case a car suddenly 15. stopped next to him. A woman 16. got out. She 17. was wearing a uniform and she 18. was carrying a card which said "Mr Jones".

"Mr Jones" she said. "I 19. was waiting for you at the airport but you 20. didn't see me!"

**3. Put in simple past or past continuous:**

- a. They told the police that they were playing cards at 10.00.(tell/play)
- b. When I went out of the house I took my umbrella because it was raining (go/rain)
- c. When he arrived at the café, I was reading the newspaper. (arrive/read)
- d. Did you watch the football match last night? (watch)
- e. When I walked into the room they were talking about clothes. (walk/talk)
- f. At 8 o'clock yesterday morning I was swimming in the sea.(swim)

**4. Put the verbs from the box into the text. Use past simple or past continuous:**

|   |
|---|
| drive open pass pull run shine sing start turn wait |
|---|

It was a beautiful morning. The sun 1. was shining and birds 2. were singing. About five thousand people 3. were waiting in front of the Palace. At 10.00, the guards 4. opened the Palace gates, and the President's car 5. drove out and 6. turned left into Democracy Street. The crowds 7. started to sing the National Anthem. Then suddenly, just as the President's car 8. was passing the Ritz Hotel, a man 9. ran out in front of it and 10. pulled a gun from his pocket.

**1. Put the verbs in brackets in Past Simple or Past Continuous.**

1. What were you doing (you/do) when I phoned (phone) you yesterday?

I was sitting (sit) in a café.

2. Sue was watching (watch) a film when she heard (hear) the noise.

3. When I left (leave) the house, it was snowing (snow).

4. While I was using (use) the computer, the electricity went off (go off).

5. The people were (clap) while the singer was singing(sing).

6. We were going (go) to the party when we saw (see) an accident.
7. My family were sitting (sit) in the living room when I came (come) home.
8. She wasn't looking (not look) when the thief stole (steal) her bag.
9. We didn't go out (not go out) because we were studying (study) for our test.

**2. Complete the dialogue. Use the Past Simple or Past Continuous.**

Reporter: Mr Smith, <sup>1</sup> were you watching TV when they <sup>2</sup> announced the winner?

Mr Smith: No, I wasn't. I was sleeping. My wife <sup>4</sup> was listening to the radio when she heard the lottery results. She <sup>6</sup> screamed and <sup>7</sup> woke me.

Reporter: Well, what <sup>8</sup> did you do?

Mr Smith: I <sup>9</sup> got up to see what was wrong. My wife <sup>10</sup> was laughing and <sup>11</sup> ..... crying at the same time. She <sup>12</sup> was also waving the lottery ticket!

Reporter: What <sup>13</sup> happened then?

Mr Smith: I <sup>14</sup> started thinking about a holiday in Hawaii.