

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
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Module: English / 2nd Year

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Past Simple vs. Past Continuous

1) Past Simple: Regular and Irregular Verbs

Form

• **Positive:**

- Subject + verb (past simple form)
- Example: I worked, you stayed, he liked, we studied.

• **Negative:**

- Subject + did not + verb (infinitive)
- Example: I did not work, you did not stay, he did not like, we did not study.

• **Question:**

- Did + subject + verb (infinitive)?
- Example: Did you work? Did he stay? Did she like? Did they study?

Use

- We use the past simple to talk about finished actions that happened at a specific time in the past.
- Example: I went to the cinema yesterday. We studied English last year.

Regular Verbs

- Most verbs form the past simple by adding -ed to the infinitive.
- Example: work - worked, stay - stayed, like - liked, study - studied.
- There are some spelling rules to remember:

- If the verb ends in -e, drop the -e and add -ed (e.g., like - liked).
- If the verb ends in a consonant + vowel + consonant, double the final consonant and add -ed (e.g., stop - stopped).

Irregular Verbs

- Many common verbs are irregular in the past simple. They don't follow the regular spelling rules.
- Example: go - went, see - saw, have - had, be - was/were.
- You need to learn the past simple forms of irregular verbs by heart.

Additional Notes

- The form of the past simple is the same for all persons (I, you, he, she, it, we, they).
- We can use the past simple to talk about a series of actions that happened one after the other in the past.
- We can also use the past simple to talk about habits and routines in the past.

2) Past Continuous

Form

- **Positive:**
 - I/He/She/It + was + verb + -ing
 - You/We/They + were + verb + -ing
 - Example: I was working, he was studying, she was reading, they were playing.
- **Negative:**
 - I/He/She/It + was not + verb + -ing
 - You/We/They + were not + verb + -ing

- Example: I was not working, he was not studying, she was not reading, they were not playing.

- **Question:**

- Was + I/he/she/it + verb + -ing?
- Were + you/we/they + verb + -ing?
- Example: Was I working? Was he studying? Were they playing?

Use

- We use the past continuous to describe an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past.
- Example: At 8 o'clock yesterday, I was watching TV.
- We often use the past continuous to describe the situation at the beginning of a story.
- Example: In 1990, I was living in Paris.
- We often use the past continuous and the past simple together in the same sentence.
- Example: I was walking in the park when I saw my friend.

Past Simple or Past Continuous?

- We use the past simple to talk about finished actions that happened at a specific time in the past.
- We use the past continuous to talk about a longer action that was happening in the background when a shorter past simple action happened.

Additional Notes

- Remember to use the correct form of the verb "to be" (was/were) depending on the subject.
- Pay attention to the spelling rules for adding -ing to verbs.
- Practice using the past continuous in different contexts.

- Learn the difference between the past simple and past continuous.