

Enter the World of Grammar

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CONTENTS

Unit 1	Revision / Present Progressive - Present Simple	3
Unit 2	Revision / Future "Will" - "Going to"	11
Unit 3	Past Simple - Past Progressive	18
Unit 4	Comparison of Adjectives	25
Unit 5	Adverbs - Comparison of Adverbs	33
Unit 6	Question Words - Subject / Object Questions	40
Unit 7	Nouns - Some / Any / No / Every / One / Ones	46
	Revision 1	53
Unit 8	Present Perfect Simple	59
Unit 9	Past Simple - Present Perfect Simple	65
Unit 10	Present Perfect Progressive	70
Unit 11	Reflexive - Emphatic Pronouns	75
Unit 12	Articles	80
Unit 13	Modals I: Can - Could - Be able to - Will - Would	87
Unit 14	Modals II: May - Might - Must	93
	Revision 2	99
Unit 15	Possessives	104
Unit 16	Question Tags	110
Unit 17	Conditional Sentences Type 1	114
Unit 18	Past Perfect Simple	119
Unit 19	Passive Voice	124
Unit 20	Do - Make	131
Unit 21	Prepositions	135
	Revision 3	143
	Irregular Verbs	149



Put the verbs in brackets into the Past Simple. The verbs in bold type are in the Past Progressive.



It was (be) the 23rd of July. The passengers boarded (board) the ship and everyone was (be) ready to leave for the long voyage. All the people were (be) excited and **were waiting** for the “Welcome Party” that night. At 3:00 p.m., while some of them **were having** lunch and others **were resting**, I **was working** on the ship with the rest of the crew. We **were getting** ready for the party.

During the party, some people **were eating**, some **were dancing** and some **were resting** in their cabins. Suddenly, something _____ (happen). The lights _____ (go) out! People **were screaming** and **running** round the ballroom. The people that **were resting** _____ (come) into the ballroom, too. Everyone _____ (laugh) at them when the lights _____ (come) on! Ha! Ha! What a sight!



Read and answer the questions.

1. How did the passengers feel when they boarded the ship?

The passengers felt excited.

2. What were the people doing during the party?

- ### 3. What happened suddenly?

4. What were the people doing in the dark?



A. Past Simple

Affirmative	Negative		Interrogative
	Long Form	Short Form	
I worked	I did not work	I didn't work	Did I work?
You worked	You did not work	You didn't work	Did you work?
He worked	He did not work	He didn't work	Did he work?
She worked	She did not work	She didn't work	Did she work?
It worked	It did not work	It didn't work	Did it work?
We worked	We did not work	We didn't work	Did we work?
You worked	You did not work	You didn't work	Did you work?
They worked	They did not work	They didn't work	Did they work?

We use the Past Simple

- for actions that started and were completed at a specific time in the past:
I **went** to a concert **last night**.
When **did** you **see** Alan?
- for habitual or repeated actions in the past:
I often **went** fishing when I **was** five years old.
She never **watched** TV.

Time expressions used with the Past Simple:

yesterday, the day before yesterday,
last night / week / Saturday / year /
summer etc.,
two hours ago / three days ago etc.,
on Sunday, in June, in 1990 etc.

Formation of the Past Simple

walk - walk**ed**

BUT

dance - dance**d**

play - play**ed** **BUT** try - try**d**

visit - visit**ed**

BUT

stop - stop**ped**
permit - permit**ted**

fail - fail**ed** **BUT** travel - travel**led**

PRONUNCIATION

The ending **-ed** is pronounced

- /id/ when the verb ends in a /t/ or /d/ sound: count - counted
- /t/ when the verb ends in a /k/, /p/, /f/, /s/, /sh/, /ch/ or /x/ sound: finish - finished
- /d/ when the verb ends in any other sound: open - opened love - loved

NOTE

Irregular verbs form their Past Simple in a different way, **without** the ending **-ed**.

B. Past Progressive

We form the **Past Progressive** with the **Past Tense** of the verb **to be** (**was / were**) and the **Present Participle** of the main verb:

I **was sleeping**. You **were watching** TV.

- We form the **negative** by putting **not** after **was / were**:
I **was sleeping**. → I **was not sleeping**.
- We form the **interrogative** by putting **was / were** before the subject and the **Present Participle** after the subject:
You **were sleeping**. → **Were you sleeping?**



Affirmative	Negative		Interrogative
	Long Form	Short Form	
I was working	I was not working	I wasn't working	Was I working?
You were working	You were not working	You weren't working	Were you working?
He was working	He was not working	He wasn't working	Was he working?
She was working	She was not working	She wasn't working	Was she working?
It was working	It was not working	It wasn't working	Was it working?
We were working	We were not working	We weren't working	Were we working?
You were working	You were not working	You weren't working	Were you working?
They were working	They were not working	They weren't working	Were they working?

We use the Past Progressive

- for an action that **was** happening at a specific point of time in the past:
I **was reading** a newspaper at eight o'clock yesterday morning.
- for an action that **was** happening in the past when another one **interrupted** it. We use the **Past Progressive** for the **longer** action and the **Past Simple** for the **shorter** action. In this case we usually use **as** or **when**:
As I **was cooking**, the telephone **rang**. I **was cooking** when the telephone **rang**.
- for two actions that were happening at the same time in the past. In this case we usually use **while**:
While I **was listening** to music, my sister **was talking** on the phone.

NOTE

- **Stative verbs** do **not** usually form the **Past Progressive**:
I **didn't know** the answer.

ACTIVITIES



A Communication - Pairwork

In pairs, ask and answer as in the example. Use the questions in the box.

e.g. **A** : Did you go to school yesterday?

B : Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.

A : Were you doing your homework at 8:00 p.m. yesterday?

B : Yes, I was. / No, I wasn't.

Did you go to school yesterday?

Were you doing your homework at 8:00 p.m. yesterday?

Did you play with your friends last night?

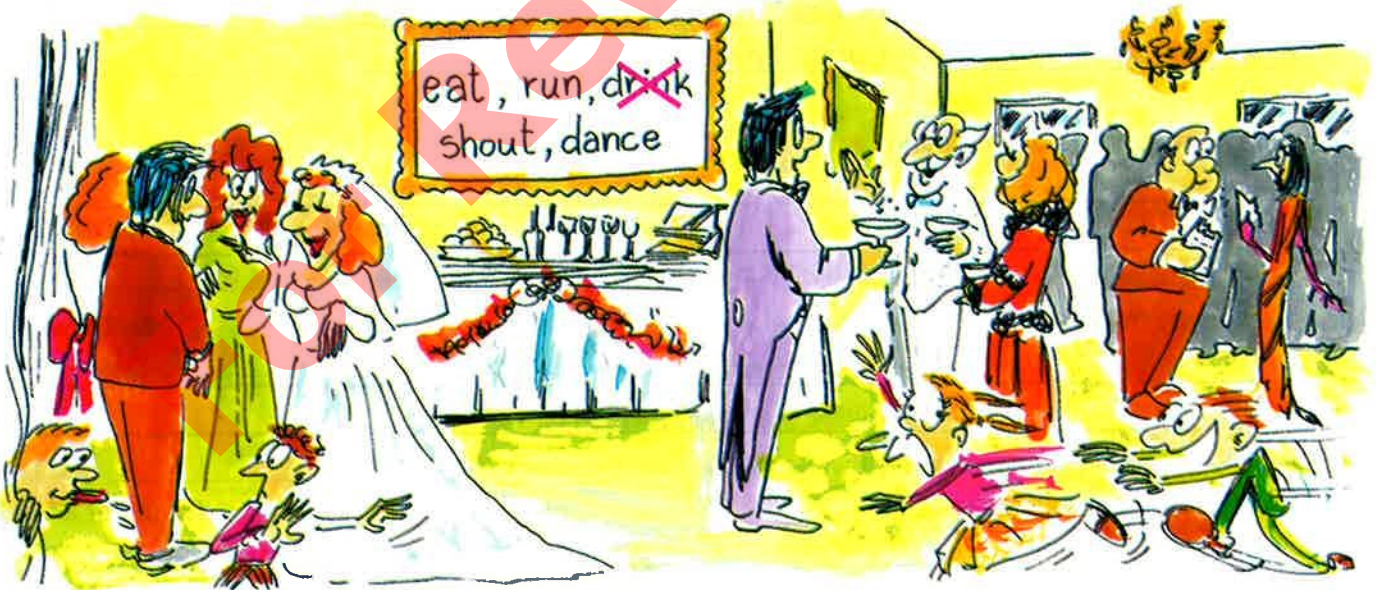
Were you playing basketball at 6:00 p.m. yesterday?

Did you cook lunch an hour ago?

Were you sleeping at 12:00 a.m. last night?



B Look at the picture and complete the blanks with the **Past Progressive** of the verbs in the box.



My sister got married yesterday. It was really boring but Robby and I had fun. All the adults were
drinking champagne and they ate sandwiches. We didn't like the sandwiches.

Yuk! We _____ around the room while the other children _____

to the music. My parents _____ at me all the time but it was great!

C Write questions and answers using the **Past Simple**, as in the example.

- Helen / eat / at home / last night (go to a restaurant)
Did Helen eat at home last night?
No, Helen didn't eat at home last night. She went to a restaurant.
- They / buy / a motorbike / yesterday (buy a car)

- Chris / meet / Suzy / last week (meet Suzy two years ago)

- She / see / Mark / yesterday (see Mark last week)

D Write questions and answers using the **Past Progressive**, as in the example.

- Mr Mills / have / dinner / at 9:00 p.m. (sleep)
Was Mr Mills having dinner at 9:00 p.m.?
No, Mr Mills wasn't having dinner at 9:00 p.m.. He was sleeping.
- Laura / cook / yesterday morning (exercise)

- She / paint / the bedroom / last week (plant flowers)

- The children / sit / in the sun (sit under a tree)

E Write sentences using the **Past Simple**

- Angela / meet / a friend / last night
Angela met a friend last night.