

# Past Time

- Main events
- *The past simple is used to describe finished events in the past.*
- Susan went into the station and bought a ticket.
- Ali cleaned all the shoes two hours ago.
- We finished our homework and played tennis.
- Did you fill in the form yesterday?

- We can use the past simple, to say that one thing happened after another.
- When the telephone rang, Ali answered it.
- I sheltered under the oak tree when it started to rain.
- When Ayse arrived, Osman made some coffee.
- I got up late yesterday morning and had a shower and then had breakfast. At 8 I left the house for school.

# 1. Background Description

## Past Continuous Tense

- **The past continuous** is used to describe actions still in progress, and is used for background description.
- *There were a lot of people waiting in the station. Some were sleeping on the benches, and others were walking up and down. Susan was looking for Graham, so she didn't sit down.*

When telling a story, describing background.

- I was standing outside the bus station. It was getting late and I was feeling tired. I was waiting for a man called Johnny.

And past simple for events and actions.

- Suddenly, a woman came round the corner and walked right up to me.' Are you Mr Marlowe? She asked.

# Past Before Past

- **The past perfect** is used to describe a past event which took place before another past event.
- By the time the train **arrived**, Susan **had managed** to push her way to the front of the crowd.
- By his second day at camp he **had made** several friends.
- After he **had packed** his bag, he **left** the house.

# Past Tense

- It is not always necessary if a time expression makes the order of events clear.
- **Before the train arrived, Susan managed to push her way to the front of the crowds.**

# Interrupted Past Continuous

- We often contrast an action still in progress with a sudden event which interrupts it.
- While Susan **was trying** to get onto the platform, a man **grabbed** her handbag.
- I **was having** a shower when I **heard** the telephone **ring**.
- What **were you doing** when I **phoned** **you** last **night**?

# Participle Clauses

- **Participle clauses** are introduced by the time expressions **before**, **after** and **while**. They have the same subject as the following clause.
- **After struggling** with him, Susan **pulled** the bag from his hands.
- **Opening** her bag, she **took out** her gun.



# Habits in the Past

1. The **past simple** is used to describe past habits or states. A time expression is usually necessary.
  - I **always got up** at six in those days.  
(Habit)
  - I **lived** in Austria for several years.  
(State)

# Used to

1. **Used to** is used to describe past habits, usually in contrast with the present. A time expression is not necessary.

- I **used to get up** at six, but now I get up at eight.
- When I was young, I **used to go** climbing once a month.
- He **used to live** in Ankara

2. **Used to** can also describe past states.

- I **used to own** a horse. (I owned a horse once.)
- I **didn't use to like** beer.

# Would

- **Would** is used to describe a person's typical activities in the past.
- It can only be used to describe repeated actions, and is mainly used in writing, and in personal reminiscences.
- **Every evening was the same. Jack would turn on the radio, light his pipe and fall asleep.**

# Past Continuous Politeness and Uncertainty

1. The past continuous can be used to describe a repeated action in the past, often an annoying habit. A frequency adverb is necessary.

- When Peter was younger, he was always getting into trouble.

1. The past continuous with the verb wonder has a polite meaning.

- I was wondering if you could help me.

2. With the verb think the past continuous suggests uncertainty

- I was thinking of having a party next week.

# Exercises

1. I suddenly remembered that I forgot / **had forgotten** my keys.

- *Had forgotten*

2. *While Diana watched / was watching her favorite television programme, there was a power-cut.*

- *Was watching*

3. Tom *used to live / would live* in the house at the end of the street.

4. *Who was driving / drove the car at the time of the accident?*

- *Was driving*

5. *By the time Serdar got back, Oguz went / had gone.*

- *Had gone*

6. Davud *ate* / *had eaten* Japanese food before,  
so he knew what to order.

- *Had eaten*

7. I *did* / *was doing* some shopping yesterday,  
when I saw that Dutch friend of yours.

- *Was doing*

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8. *I used to like / was liking sweets much more than I do now.*

- *Used to like*

9. *What exactly were you doing / did you do when I came into your office yesterday?*

- *Were you doing*



10. Jale missed the party because no-one **was telling / had told** her about it.

- **Had told**

11. Esra **would / used to** be a doctor.

- **used to**

12. After phoning the airport, Faruk **packed / had packed / was packing** his suitcase.

- **packed**

- **13. While I ..... to get my car started, a passing car ..... and the driver ..... to help me.**
  - **A) tried / stopped / offered**
  - **B) was trying / stopped / was offering**
  - **C) was trying / was stopping / was offering**
  - **D) was trying / stopped / offered**
  - **d**
- **14. The police ..... no attention to Michael's complaint because she ..... them so many times before.**
  - **A) was paying / was phoning**
  - **B) paid / phoned**
  - **C) paid / had phoned**
  - **D) was paying / had phoned**
  - **c**

- **15. Maria ..... her glasses at the time, so she ..... what kind of car the man .....**
  - **A) didn't wear / didn't notice / drove**
  - **B) wasn't wearing / didn't notice / was driving**
  - **C) wasn't wearing / wasn't noticing / was driving**
  - **D) was wearing / didn't notice / had driven**
  - **b**
- **16. George ..... that he .....the other car, but said that he .....it.**
  - **A) admitted / had hit / hadn't damaged**
  - **B) admitted / hit / didn't damage**
  - **C) was admitting / was hitting / wasn't damaging**
  - **D) had admitted / had hit / hadn't damaged**
  - **a**

- **17. Sorry, I ..... to you. I ..... about something else.**
  - **A) didn't listen / thought**
  - **B) wasn't listening / thought**
  - **C) didn't listen / was thinking**
  - **D) wasn't listening / was thinking**
  - **d**
- **18. The police ..... to Carlos's house as fast as they could, but the burglars .....**
  - **A) was getting / disappeared**
  - **B) got / disappeared**
  - **C) got / had disappeared**
  - **had got / disappeared**
  - **c**

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