

	Indefinite	Continuous/Progressive	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
Present	I play	I am playing	I have played	I have been playing
Past	I played	I was playing	I had played	I had been playing
		I will be	I will have played	I will have been playing

Simple past vs past continuous

PAST SIMPLE

AFFIRMATIVE

Regular Verbs : -ED

Irregular Verbs : 2nd column

*I **playED** football*

*I **BOUGHT** a T-shirt*

NEGATIVE

*I **DIDN'T** play football*

*I **DIDN'T** buy a T-shirt*

INTERROGATIVE

***DID** you play football?*

***DID** you buy a T-shirt?*

USE

- Action in the past taking place once, never or several times

Example: He *visited* his parents every weekend.

- Actions in the past taking place one after the other

Example: He *came* in, *took* off his coat and *sat* down.

- Action in the past taking place in the middle of another action

Example: When I was having breakfast, the phone suddenly *rang*.

SIGNAL WORDS

Yesterday, 2 minutes **AGO**, in 1990,
the other day, **LAST** Friday...



PAST CONTINUOUS (WAS/WERE + -ING)

AFFIRMATIVE

I /She/He WAS playING football
You/We/They WERE fishING

NEGATIVE

I /She/He WASN'T playING football
You/We/They WEREN'T fishING

INTERROGATIVE

WAS she / he playING football?
WERE you/they fishING?

USE

- Action going on at a certain time in the past

Example: When I was having breakfast, the phone suddenly rang.

- Two actions happening at the same time (in the past)

Example: While she was preparing dinner, he was washing the dishes.

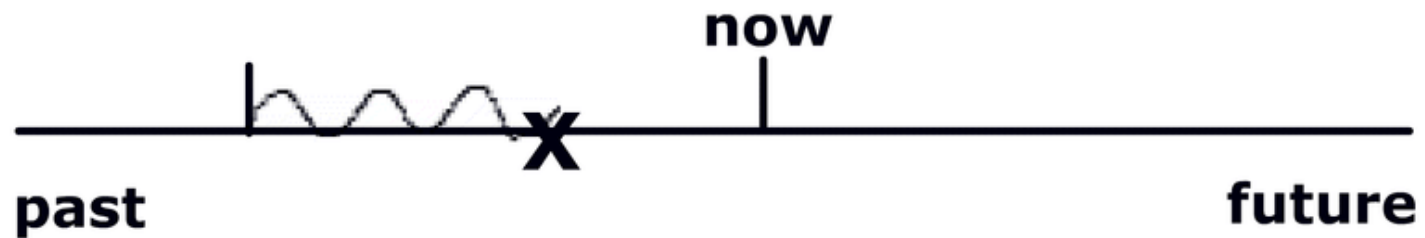
SIGNAL WORDS

When, while, as long as, yesterday at 6 o'clock...



Past Continuous

I was reading a book when the phone rang.



Practice 1

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the past tense of the verbs in brackets:

1. Joanne ...WAS MAKING...(make) breakfast when Peter ...CALLED..... (call).
2. While he ...WAS DOING..... (do) the dishes, he ...RAN OUT... (run out) of washing up liquid.
3. They ...DECIDED.....(decide) to go to the beach while the sun ...WHILE..... (still/shine)
4. I ...CALLED..... (call) you this morning, but you didn't answer the phone.WERE YOU TAKING..... (you/take) a shower?
5. At 8pm last night, Mario ...WAS NOT DOING...(not/do) his homework. He ...WAS PLAYING.....(play) computer games instead!
6. John had a car accident while he ...WAS DRIVING.....(drive) to work. He ...WAS TALKING..(talk) on his mobile when he reversed into a tree

Let's practice!

- Online exercises: <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple-past-continuous-exercise-1.html>
- Irregular verbs review:
 - 1. https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/irregular_verbs/fill_in.htm
 - 2. https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/irregular_verbs/fill_in2.htm
 - 3. https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/irregular_verbs/fill_in3.htm

Extra resources

- English grammar tutorial video lesson:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XP4le29BAM
- More on how to make the simple past tense:
<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple.html>
- More on how to make the past continuous tense:
<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-continuous.html>
- List of irregular verbs:
<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/english-grammar-reference/irregular-verbs>