

Exam tip: Use *used to*, *would* and the past simple to talk about things that you did when you were younger that you no longer do, or to describe situations that are no longer true. Below are some ideas for topics. Record yourself and pay attention to your pronunciation.

where you lived

pets you had

your pastimes

toys you played with

friends you had

your daily routine

- 15** The past continuous (*was/were + -ing*) tells us that something was in progress at a particular time in the past. We can use the past simple for an action that interrupted or happened during the past continuous action. The past continuous is also used to give the background to a story.

- Find an example in the text in Exercise 12 of the past continuous being used to give background. Which main action does it give the background to?
- Listen to Track 18 again. Notice that the speaker uses the weak form of *was*. Practise saying these sentences using the weak forms.

I **was** /wəz/ cycling along.

They **were** /wə/ cycling along.

Note that the past continuous is not generally used with state verbs, e.g. ~~I was liking the meat~~. It does not normally describe repeated actions or habits in the past, e.g. ~~When I was a child, we were having dinner together as a family~~.

- Complete the sentences with the past continuous or the past simple of the verbs in brackets.

- One day, my cousin and I (1) _____ (*jump*) up and down on my bed. We (2) _____ (*enjoy*) ourselves immensely but then my mum (3) _____ (*walk*) in and (4) _____ (*tell*) us off.
- I (1) _____ (*be*) on holiday with my family and we (2) _____ (*walk*) along the beach. Suddenly a dog (3) _____ (*run*) up to us. It (4) _____ (*bark*) aggressively and we (5) _____ (*be*) terrified. My dad (6) _____ (*try*) to scare it off but it (7) _____ (*bite*) him.

- 16** We use the past perfect simple (*had + past participle*) to say something happened before something else in the past – it is 'more past'. Notice the difference between the following two sentences:

*When I arrived, my friend **opened** her presents.* (= I arrived, then my friend opened her presents. The actions are described chronologically.)

*When I arrived, my friend **had opened** her presents.* OR *My friend **had opened** her presents when I arrived.* (= My friend opened her presents before I arrived.)

- Find an example in the text in Exercise 12 of the past simple used to describe a single action in the past and the past perfect used to describe something 'more past' than that action.
- There are two possible weak forms of *had*: /həd/ and /əd/. You can also use the contraction 'd. Practise saying these sentences:

He **had** /həd/ tripped.

He **had** /əd/ tripped.

He'd /hi:d/ tripped.