

Reviewing past simple vs past continuous

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_2617G

LANGUAGE
English

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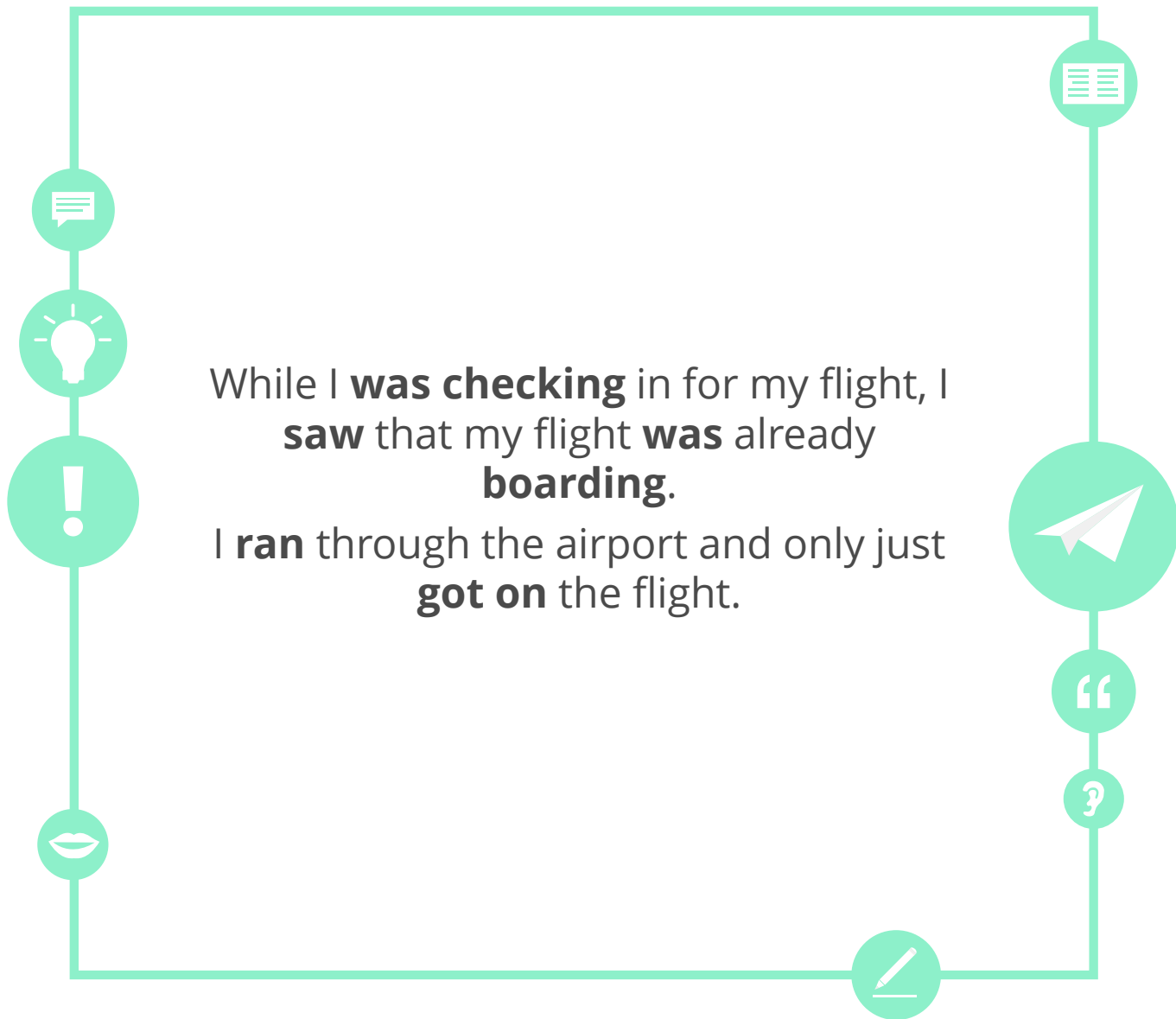




Goals

- Can form the past simple and the past continuous.
- Can distinguish between past simple and past continuous.







Preview and warm-up

In this lesson, you are going to **review** how to use the **past simple** and the **past continuous** in the context of a **business trip**.



I **was reading** the report when I **had** a great idea.



The past simple

- We use the **past simple** to talk about **actions** or **states** in the **past** which are **complete**.
- For **regular** verbs, we add **-ed** to make the **past simple**.
- There are lots of **irregular** verbs too.

Base form	Past simple
travel	travelled
stay	stayed
go	went
meet	met
fly	flew





Grammar examples

- Here are some examples of the **past simple**:



I **travelled** to work by car yesterday.

I **stayed** in a hotel on my last business trip.



I **flew** to Rome on Sunday.



Past simple

What is the past simple of these verbs? Make sure you know how to spell them.





Past simple

**Change the verbs from present simple to past simple.
Then, put the sentences into the correct order.**

1. I fly for 2 hours and I land in Copenhagen at 12pm.
2. I board my flight at 10am.
3. Then I go through security.
4. I check in when I arrive at the airport.
5. I sit in the departure lounge.



Speaking

When was the last time you travelled by plane?

Where did you fly to?

When did you last check into a hotel?

Did you order room service or extra housekeeping?



The past continuous

- We use the **past continuous** to talk about **actions** which were **in progress** in the **past**.
- It is formed with **subject** + **was/were** + **-ing form** of the verb.

Subject	was/were	-ing form
I	was	meeting
You	were	going
He	was	travelling
We	were	flying
They	were	eating



The past continuous

- We use the **past continuous** to talk about a **long action** in the **past**. It is often used with a **time phrase**.
- When used with an hour, e.g. *I was travelling at 6pm yesterday*, we understand that the action **started before** 6pm and **finished after** 6pm.

I was travelling at 6pm yesterday.

She was meeting her boss on Friday.

We were eating at 8pm last night.

They were sleeping at 4am yesterday.





The past continuous



- Remember we **don't use** the **past continuous** with **state verbs**.
- Which sentence below is correct?



This suitcase **was belonging** to me.
This suitcase **belonged** to me.



Change the sentences from past simple to past continuous

1. I travelled to New York Yesterday.



I was travelling to New York yesterday.

2. He flew in the afternoon.



3. We checked in.



4. I boarded my flight.



5. They caught the bus.





Fill in the gaps

Use one of the verbs below to complete the past continuous sentences.

wait

stay

study

meet

read

1. Julie _____ English during her flight.
2. We _____ for room service for a long time.
3. At 10am they _____ their new boss.
4. Sam _____ a book during breakfast.
5. I _____ in a hotel for work.





Speaking

What were you doing at these times?



Monday at 2pm

Tuesday at 10am

Wednesday at
12pm

Thursday at 4pm



The past simple and the past continuous

- We often use the **past simple** and the **past continuous** together.
- We do this to show a **short action** – the **past simple** – interrupting a **longer action** – the **past continuous**.
- We often use **when** with the **past simple** and **while** with the **past continuous**.

Past simple	Past continuous
My room service arrived	while I was watching TV.
The plane landed	while I was sleeping.
When my boss called me,	I was driving.
When housekeeping came,	I was tidying my room.



Spot the difference!

- What is the **difference** in **meaning** between these two sentences?



When room service **arrived**, I **was watching** TV.

When room service **arrived**, I **watched** TV.





The past continuous

- We can use the **past continuous** to show **two long actions** happening at the **same time**.

I was talking to my boss while I was writing emails.

Jane was working on her laptop while she was travelling.

We were eating dinner while we were having our meeting.

I was booking a train ticket while my secretary was booking a hotel.





Fill in the gaps

Choose the past simple or the past continuous to fill in the gaps.

1. Faith _____ (travel) all day yesterday and when she _____ (arrive) at her hotel, it was fully booked!
2. While Ben _____ (prepare) for the meeting, his colleague _____ (call) him.
3. I _____ (order) a taxi while my colleague _____ (ask) for restaurant recommendations.
4. The meeting _____ (start) when I _____ (walk) in.





Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences in your own words.

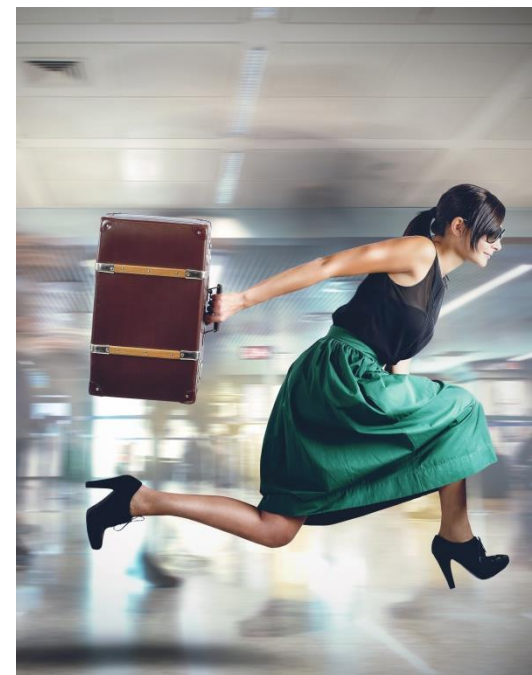
1. While I was sitting in the departure lounge...
2. When I arrived at the hotel...
3. While I was waiting to board my flight...
4. While I was checking in to my hotel...
5. When I went to reception...



Fill in the gaps

Read through the text. Can you guess what might go in the gaps?

When Hallie _____ up she knew she was late. While she _____ dressed, she _____ a taxi and then she packed her suitcase. While the taxi driver _____ to the airport, Hallie _____ at him to go faster. When she _____ at the terminal the check-in _____ . She only just made it. While she _____ through security, an announcement was saying her flight was boarding. She _____ through the airport and _____ the plane. While she _____ for the plane to take off, she _____ a message to say her meeting in Brussels was cancelled and she didn't have to go after all.



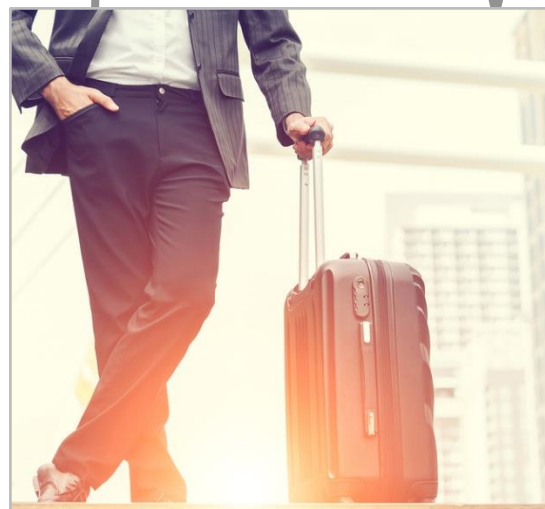
Now listen to your teacher tell you the story and fill in the gaps as you go along.



Speaking

You are going to tell your classmates a story about an interesting trip or travel day that you have had. Take a few minutes to prepare and make some notes if you need to. Then, tell your story to the class.

- Remember to include past simple and past continuous tenses!
- Try to include examples with *when* and *while* in your story.





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

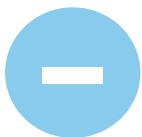
no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise p. 7

caught, checked in, got on, boarded, took off, flew, travelled

Exercise p. 8

1. flew, landed, 2. boarded, 3. went, 4. checked, 5. sat. Order: 4, 3, 5, 2, 1

Exercise p. 13

2. He was flying, 3. We were checking in, 4. I was boarding, 5. They were catching

Exercise p. 14

1. was studying, 2. were waiting, 3. were meeting, 4. was reading, 5. was staying

Exercise p. 19

1. was travelling, arrived, 2. was preparing, called, 3. ordered, was asking, 4. was starting, walked

Exercise p. 21

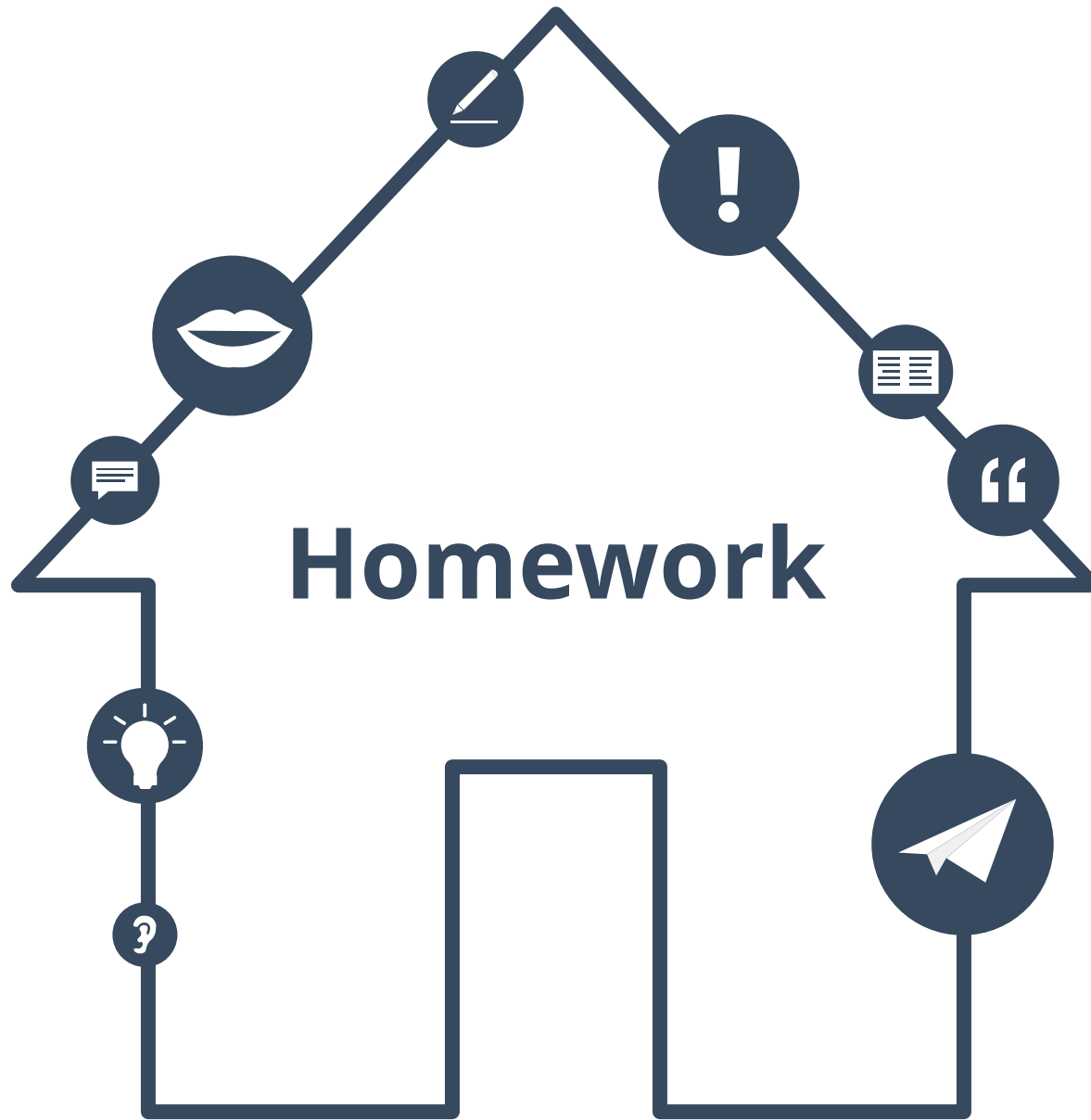
See transcription



Transcription

Exercise p. 21

When Hallie woke up she knew she was late. While she was getting dressed, she called a taxi and then she packed her suitcase. While the taxi driver was driving to the airport, Hallie was shouting at him to go faster. When she arrived at the terminal the check in was closing. She only just made it. While she was going through security, an announcement was saying her flight was boarding. She ran through the airport and got on the plane. While she was waiting for the plane to take off, she got a message to say her meeting in Brussels was cancelled and she didn't have to go after all.





Unscramble

A

waiting for our

talking

While we were

about

plane, we were

the meeting.

B

checked in

was

checking out.

to my hotel,

When I

my colleague



Writing

Write the story that you told on p. 22 here. Make sure your past simple and past continuous tenses are correct.

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Homework answer key

Exercise p. 28

A. While we were waiting for our plane, we were talking about the meeting. B. When I checked in to the hotel, my colleague was checking out.



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