

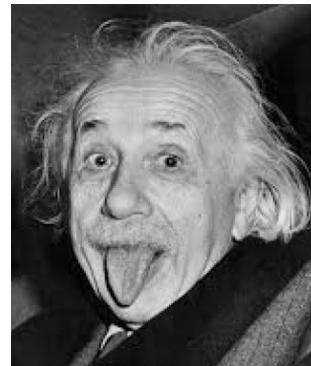
TALKING ABOUT PAST EVENTS (IV)

Read the second part of Albert Einstein's story and do the activities below:

The Scientist and The Man:

Part 2: The Man

Once, the Queen of Belgium invited him to pay her a visit. He got off the train with a suitcase in one hand and a violin in the other, and went on foot to the palace. He did not know that a reception committee was waiting for him at the station. The Queen's officials looked for him all around. At last they returned to the palace to inform the Queen that Einstein had most probably changed his mind about coming. And suddenly, a little grey-haired man was coming up the road.



"Why didn't you use the car I sent for you?" asked the Queen. The guest looked at her with a smile and answered, "It was a very pleasant walk, Your Majesty." Einstein hated wealth. He didn't want none of it. Peace, he said, was what the world needed, and that nobody could buy with money. Unfortunately, this peace-lover witnessed two World Wars during his lifetime.

When the First World War broke out, the German government was anxious to get the support of educated people like Einstein. However, Einstein refused to support them. He was fearless in his love of peace. The Germans never really forgave him for disobeying them. Even as a young man, when he had the chance, Einstein chose Swiss over German nationality. He was therefore attacked on two sides.

After the Second World War, he went on a journey to the East. He never rode a man-pulling rickshaw while he was in India. He loved mankind so deeply, that he could not conceive the idea of riding on the back of a half-naked man. He loved children and listened with joy while they were talking. "In these children lies the hope of the world," he said.

Einstein lived his last years quietly and peacefully, with his books and dreams in a small house in the United States. He was saddened by the use of the atomic bomb. He didn't have the ability or the experience to deal with human beings. Yet he continued to love them. He was patient even with the strangers who appeared at the front of his porch and asked their wives to photograph them while they were coming out of the great man's house.

Einstein died when he was seventy-six years old. He left behind the memory of a man who had looked at the universe with the eyes of a scientist, and looked at mankind with the kindness of a saint.

Adapted from NCERT publication
<http://www.english-for-students.com/the-scientist-and-the-man.html>

Compare:

break = romper
 break out = estallar/ desencadenarse

get = conseguir
 get off = bajarse

look at = mirar
 look for = buscar

Reading comprehension:

Which paragraph or paragraphs in the text talk about each of the following?

- Einstein's bravery against evil:
- All people were created equal for him:
- His unexpected attitudes when meeting the royalty:
- A great man's legacy:
- Staying humble until the end:

Focus on grammar:

1- Classify the **regular verbs** according to their pronunciation:

/d/	/t/	/id/

2- Match the past of the **irregular verbs** with their infinitive (use the table to help you if necessary, looking at the second column)

break:

choose:

forgive:

get:

go:

have:

leave:

ride:

→ What happens in the **negative and interrogative forms** of the simple past? Do the regular and irregular verbs change in each case?

3- **Connectors:** these words are used to join ideas within a sentence or between sentences.

There are different types of connectors depending on the idea they transmit.

→ Classify the connectors used in the text in the correct category:

Time:

Result:

Contrast:

Presenting a negative aspect (a contrast in expectations, in a way):

4- The past continuous tense:

I. USES:

> Look again at these sentences from the text and answer the questions:

He got off the train with a suitcase in one hand and a violin in the other, and went on foot to the palace. He did not know that a reception committee was waiting for him at the station.

He was patient even with the strangers who appeared at the front of his porch and asked their wives to photograph them while they were coming out of the great man's house.

- a) Do all the highlighted verbs talk about the past?
- b) Which verbs describe a completed action?
- c) Which verbs describe actions in progress at a particular time?

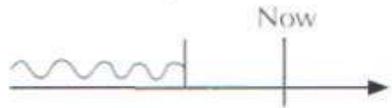
The answer to the first question is yes. However, we use the *simple past* to talk about *completed actions* and the past continuous to emphasise actions in progress before, during (and probably after) a finished event in the past. Both tenses are useful together to tell a story.

- *He got off* and *went* → 2 finished actions
- A reception committee *was waiting* → a longer action than the previous ones, it's *in progress*, a continuous action that happened before and during the event.

→ Watch this **video** about the uses of the past continuous compared to the simple past:
https://youtu.be/QoMh_0lgSF4

→ Now look at these sentences; then watch this **video**: <https://youtu.be/-W9-Ce56s0s> (it includes the use of **when** and **while** and verbs that can't be used in the continuous tense)

- a) She was travelling on a bus when a tram crashed into it.



- b) She began to feel pain while she was recovering from the accident.



II. FORM:

How do you form the past continuous tense? What is the auxiliary verb? What is the form of the main

Affirmative:	I /he /she /it + WAS You/we/they + WERE	
Negative:	I /he /she /it + WAS + not (WASN'T) You/we/they + WERE + not (WEREN'T)	+ verb + ING
Interrogative:	[Wh-word +] WAS + I /he /she /it [Wh-word +] WERE + You/we/they	

verb?

E.g.

She **was coming** / She **wasn't coming** / Was she **coming**? / Why was she **coming**?

They **were coming** / They **weren't coming** / Were they **coming**? / Why were they **coming**?

STORIES OF SURVIVORS

Listening:

Source: Life Pre-int Audio 1.24

1 1.24 Listen to part of a radio interview with survival expert Doctor Weisz.

Match the survivors (1-3) to the situations (a-c).

- 1- Maria Garza
- 2- Bethany Hamilton
- 3- Mr and Mrs Carlson

- a- lost at sea for thirty-one days
- b- escaped from a burning aeroplane
- c- surfing when attacked by a shark

2 1.24 Listen again. Choose the correct option (a-c) to complete the sentences.

1- The main aim of the TV programme is to talk about_____.

- a) recent survival stories.
- b) the best survival stories.
- c) the personal qualities of survivors.

3- The Carlsons' story is different to Bethany's because _____.

- a) they were at sea for a long time.
- b) they were in the water.
- c) they didn't have experience.

2- Doctor Weisz says all survivors _____.

- a) are decisive.
- b) need determination.
- c) are decisive and need determination.

4- Most survivors _____.

- a) only take risks if essential.
- b) usually take risks.
- c) aren't very careful.

Practice:

3 Past simple or continuous? Choose the correct options to complete the true life survival stories.

TRUElife SURVIVAL STORIES!

The sun ¹ shone / was shining when Bethany Hamilton arrived at the beach on a beautiful morning in Hawaii. But hours later, the young teenager ² surfed / was surfing out at sea when a shark attacked her and she lost her left arm. Amazingly, Bethany ³ swam / was swimming back to the beach with one arm and, as she was swimming, she told other surfers to get out of the water.

While Steven and Rachel Carlson ⁴ sailed / were sailing around the Canary Islands, their boat sank. They ⁵ didn't have / weren't having much food and water but after 31 days at sea they still survived.

It was a normal afternoon at Denver airport but as Flight 455 was taking off, passengers ⁶ saw / was seeing a fire from the window. Immediately, the plane's captain realised that the engines ⁷ didn't work / weren't working and radioed for help. While passengers ⁸ ran / were running towards the front exits, Maria Garza pulled her daughter through the window exit next to the wing.



Source: Life Pre-int Audio 1.25

4 Pronunciation: *was*

4.1.25 Listen to these sentences. Notice how the pronunciation of *was* changes. Then listen again and repeat.

- /wəz/
1 She was surfing in Hawaii.
- /wɒznt/
2 It wasn't snowing.
- /wɒz/
3 Was it raining?

Writing:

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING time sequencers

When we tell a story, we often use time sequencers to show when things happened.

Showing how a situation changes

At first ... but after ...

To begin with ... but then ...

Talking about an unexpected event suddenly

Showing the order of events

*half an hour later a short time later after a few minutes
then next*

Ending a story or saying that a lot of time has passed in the end finally at last

Referring to an action which interrupts another action when while

B)

Choose the correct options to complete the email.

Hi John,

It was great to hear from you. Yes, thanks, I had a great time visiting my family. The best day was when we all went for a walk ~~together~~. We started walking at midday and ¹~~a short time later~~ / finally / while, something really funny happened. We were walking along by the side of a river, ²after a few minutes / then / when my brother decided to try and jump across it. ³Suddenly / To begin with / While, we saw him run towards the river, so we all stopped to watch him. Unfortunately, the river was wider than he thought and he landed right in the middle. ⁴At first / But after / Half an hour later, we didn't say anything, ⁵at last / but then / next my brother started laughing. That made the rest of us laugh, too. ⁶At first / When / In the end, my sister went to help him get out of the river. As you can imagine, he was very wet!

Anyway, I'll call you soon to see when I can show you the photos.

Love, Jane

A) Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 The accident happened *after / while* she was snowboarding.
- 2 A rescue team arrived. *Then / When* they took her to hospital.
- 3 We were planning a party on the last night, but we cancelled it *after / in the end*.
- 4 Her leg really hurt, but a few days *then / later* it felt much better.
- 5 *When / At first* she enjoyed the rest, but *after / later* a while she felt bored.

Share in our **Class 7 subgroup** about the following: “**A real or special event in my life**”

- ❖ Write 2 very short stories of about 35 words each: one has to be about something that **really happened to you** in the past; the other one has to be an **invented** experience.
 - >> But **DON'T say which one is true!** Your classmates have to **guess**.
 - >> Use the **past simple** and **continuous**: say **what happened** and **what you were doing** at the time. E.g. *While I was working in..., I met... // I was living abroad when I...*
 - >> Use the **time expressions and sequencers**. Check the irregular verb list in case you need it.
- ❖ Read your classmates' stories and **guess** which one is **real**. Leave your answer in a **comment**.
- ❖ Don't forget to read your classmates' comments and **reply** them!

* Here are **some ideas** on what you can write about:

- a survival story
- a famous person that you met
- the time you felt like a hero
- a competition that you won
- a dangerous animal that you saw

(You can write, for example, 2 survival stories OR a survival story and how you met a famous person. The important thing is that **only 1 of them has to be true**).

Grammar reference:

Past simple and past continuous

1 Positive and negative statements

GR3.2

	Subject	Auxiliary	Verb	
Past simple:				
+	I		left	the airport in a taxi.
-	We	didn't	buy	a ticket.
Past continuous:				
+	I	was	walking	in the mountains.
-	We	were	planning	our holiday yesterday evening.
-	He	wasn't	sleeping	at 1 p.m.

2 Questions

GR3.2 (continued)

	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb	Short answer
Past simple:				
	Did	you	get	cold in the sea? Yes, I did.
Past continuous:				
	Were	you	doing	something nice? No, I wasn't.

- We use the past continuous to talk about actions which were unfinished at a past time.
At 3 p.m., she was still packing her bags.
- We use the past simple for finished actions and things that happened one after another.
I got into the car, shut the door and started the engine.
- We use the past simple for repeated past actions or completed past actions.
He flew to Egypt three times.
She waited for him for 30 minutes.
- We often use the past simple and past continuous together. We use the past continuous for the longer action. We use the past simple for a shorter action that happened at the same time as the longer action.
While I was sitting on the train, I made a phone call.
- In these cases, we often use the words *when*, *while* or *as* to introduce the longer action.
He called his friend as he walked down the street.

Stative verbs are not used in the past continuous.

He did a puzzle while we were on holiday.

NOT *He did a puzzle while we were being on holiday.*

Grammar practice:

- 1 Use the prompts to write past continuous sentences.

1 sun / shine and people / sunbathe on / beach

2 phone / ring, but I / leave / the house so I didn't answer it

3 we / not / study when the teacher walked in

4 we / walk past the building when the fire started

5 she / not / think / about her exam results when the envelope arrived

6 it / not / rain, / so we went for a picnic

2

Write positive and negative sentences and questions using the past simple and past continuous.

1 we / drive / when / the sun / come up

We were driving when the sun rose.

2 the balloon / land / when / the accident happen ?

3 I / not put / my hand up / while / the teacher / talk

4 Dad / walk / down the stairs / when / he / fall ?

5 while / you / climb / the Eiffel Tower / you / feel / ill ?

6 Paul / drop / his ticket / as / he / get off / the train

7 we / not wear / jackets / when / the rain / start

3 Past simple or continuous? Choose the correct options.

Volcano!

It ¹was / was being the summer of 1995. I ²stayed / was staying in a small hotel in the capital of Montserrat, an island in the Caribbean Sea, when a group of important scientists ³invited / were inviting me to investigate the volcano in the Soufrière Hills. They ⁴wanted / were wanting me to study it because they ⁵knew / were knowing that it was dangerous.



Every day, I ⁶got / was getting up early to do this important work. Then, early one morning, when I ⁷slept / was sleeping, the volcano ⁸started / was starting to erupt. The government ⁹decided / were deciding to tell everybody to leave the city. Everybody ¹⁰left / was leaving as fast as possible, and the city was soon deserted. I remember that people were really kind and helpful, carrying bags for old people and helping poor people to pay for flights. Today, the city is a deserted ghost town. Nobody lives there.

ANSWERS:

Page 2:

READING COMPREHENSION

- Einstein's bravery against evil: paragraph 3
- All people were created equal for him: paragraph 4
- His unexpected attitudes when meeting the royalty: paragraphs 1 and 2
- A great man's legacy: paragraph 6
- Staying humble until the end: paragraph 5

FOCUS ON GRAMMAR

1-

/d/	/t/	/id/
returned answered listened continued appeared died refused	looked witnessed asked	invited needed hated

2-

break: broke
choose: chose
forgive: forgave
get: got

go: went
have: had
leave: left
ride: rode

→ What happens in the **negative and interrogative forms** of the simple past? Do the regular and irregular verbs change in each case?

- **Negative form:** We add the auxiliary DID + NOT before the verb.
- **Interrogative form:** The auxiliary DID goes before the subject, and after the subject comes the verb in the infinitive form: auxiliary DID + subject + verb infinitive. E.g. Why did you leave?
> If we're asking a question in the negative, as we could see in the text: auxiliary + not +subject + verb infinitive. E.g. Why didn't you use the car?

Do the regular and irregular verbs change? No, they are used in the **infinitive form**.

3- Connectors:

Time: once, suddenly, at last

Result: therefore

Contrast: however, yet

Presenting a negative aspect (a contrast in expectations, in a way): unfortunately

Page 4:

LISTENING:

Activity 1:

- 1- b
- 2- c
- 3- a

Activity 2:

- 1- c
- 2- c
- 3- a
- 4- a

Activity 3:

- 1- was shining
- 2- was surfing
- 3- swam
- 4- were sailing
- 5- didn't have
- 6- saw
- 7- weren't working
- 8- were running

Page 5:

WRITING:

- A)** 1- while
2- then
3- in the end
4- later
5- at first / after

B)

- 2- when
3- Suddenly
4- At first,
5- but then
6- In the end,

Page 6:

GRAMMAR PRACTICE:

1)

- 1- The sun was shining and people were sunbathing on the beach.
- 2- The phone was ringing but I was leaving the house so I didn't answer it.
- 3- We weren't studying when the teacher walked in.
- 4- We were walking past the building when the fire started.
- 5- She wasn't thinking about her exam results when the envelope arrived.
- 6- It wasn't raining, so we went for a picnic.

2)

- 2- Was the balloon landing when the accident happened?
- 3- I didn't put my hand up while the teacher was talking.
- 4- Was Dad walking down the stairs when he fell?
- 5- While you were climbing the Eiffel Tower, did you feel ill?
- 6- Paul dropped his ticket as he was getting off the train.
- 7- We weren't wearing any jackets when the rain started.

Page 7:

- 1- was
- 2- was staying
- 3- invited
- 4- wanted
- 5- knew
- 6- got
- 7- was sleeping
- 8- started
- 9- decided
- 10- was leaving