

Past Tenses 2

Past continuous & simple

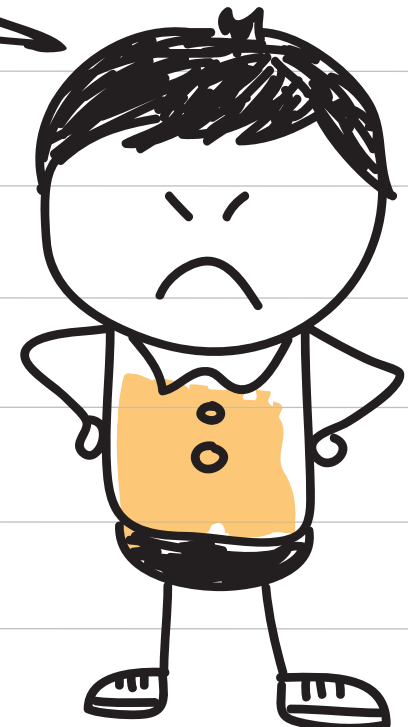
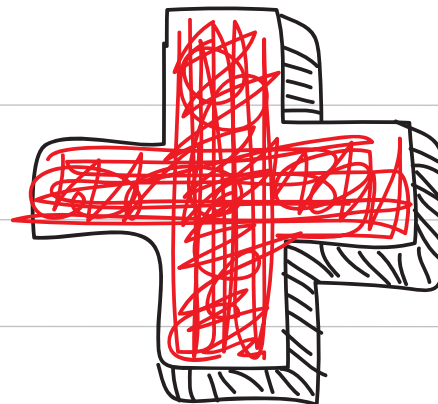
Using the past simple

MEANING

We use the past simple to talk about actions or states in the past.

What happened to you?

I **had** an accident.



Using the past simple

MEANING

We can use it to talk about actions that happened just once ~~OR~~ many times.

I **had** to work overtime on Saturday and Sunday!

We can also use it to talk about actions that are long ~~OR~~ short.

I **lost** control and **hit** a small tree!

Using past continuous

MEANING

We use past continuous for actions in progress at a time in the past.

I was going down a hill really fast.

Her phone was ringing all through dinner!

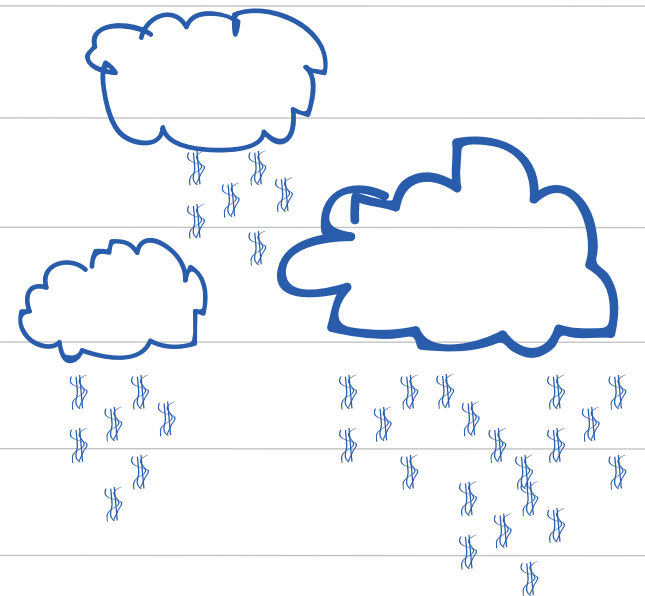


Using past continuous

MEANING

We often use past continuous to describe the **BACKGROUND** to a story.

Well, it was a horrible day, really cold, and it **was snowing** quite heavily.



Past continuous vs Past simple

MEANING

We often use **PAST SIMPLE** for longer actions that are interrupted.

Every time we **were talking**, her phone **would go off**.

Or actions happening around **an event** in the past.

Oh, isn't she the girl you **met** while you **were shopping** in the supermarket?

Past continuous vs Past simple

MEANING

We also use the **PAST CONTINUOUS** when actions are seen as unfinished.

I **was reading** a book on the train.

We use **PAST SIMPLE** more for actions that are finished.

I **read** a book on the train.

Using while, when, as

MEANING

We can use these words to **LINK** sentences with **past simple** and **past continuous**.

I had an accident **while** I was skiing.

a link

I was going downhill really fast **when** I lost control and hit a small tree!

As we were leaving she gave her telephone number to the waiter!

Before you continue.....

In this presentation we have compared the use of the past simple and past continuous.

Review this presentation and make notes about when we use past simple and past continuous.

In your notebook, write some sentences about an accident that happened to you when you were young.

I was carrying a large box of toys when I fell down the stairs and hurt my head.

