

Narrative tenses: Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect

1. Match Past Continuous sentences with the correct uses.

SAMPLE SENTENCES:

- a) I **was washing** the dishes when my mom called.
- b) We **were living** in Berlin at the time.
- c) What **were you doing** at 8pm yesterday?
- d) While I **was playing** computer games, my girlfriend **was reading** a book.
- e) It was a nice day and the sun **was shining**. We **were sitting** in our garden.



USES OF PAST CONTINUOUS:

- 1) Describing a scene in a story
- 2) Describing two actions happening at the same time in the past
- 3) Describing a past action in progress interrupted by another event
- 4) Describing an action in progress at a specific time in the past
- 5) Describing temporary situations in the past

2. Now, write five sentences representing the different uses of Past Continuous from the previous exercise. Each sentence should include two verbs in the box.

EXAMPLE: *When I was driving to work, my boss called to tell me some good news.*

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|------|----------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| buy | call | decide | drive | fall | find |
| hear | look for | meet | see | sing | sit |
| rain | read | ride | walk | watch | wash |

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3. Look at the sentences below and decide which action happened first.

EXAMPLE:

I didn't pass my exam because I hadn't studied at all.

↓
2nd action

↓
1st action

- a) When I came back home, I realized that my car had been stolen.
- b) We hadn't booked the table, so we had to stand in a long queue waiting for a table.
- c) When I got to work, the meeting had already finished.
- d) I missed my train because I had overslept.
- e) I left home, got into the car, and drove to work.
- f) We hadn't done the shopping, so we ordered a pizza.

4. Studying the sentences from the previous exercise, choose the correct options in the rules below.

- a) We use Past Perfect to show which action happened **first/second**
- b) We use **Past Simple/Past Perfect** when actions happen immediately after each other
- c) We use **Past Simple/Past Perfect** to give a reason for some event

5. Using Past Simple and Past Perfect, write sentences with the words in the box.

already because realize so when

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6. Complete the story below using Past Simple, Past Continuous and Past Perfect, and the verbs in brackets.

It was a nice day and the sun (shine). I
(watch) the news when my dog got up and went to the door.
Time for a walk. I (put) on my jacket,
(take) my phone and (leave) home. We went to the
park. While my dog (run) around, I (talk) on the phone with a
friend. After some time, I got hungry so I went to a nearby food truck and ordered
a hotdog. When it was ready, I wanted to pay but I realized that I (not
take) my wallet. I was quite embarrassed and the guy from the food truck wanted
his money. I told him I didn't have my wallet with me and I'd be back in 15 minutes
with his money. He agreed but asked me to leave something as a guarantee. I
decided to leave him my watch. I got home, took some money, and went back to
pay for my hotdog. When I (get) there, the food truck (already
leave) together with my watch.



7. Work in pairs or groups. Come up with a story together. The first person builds a few sentences connected with the first two images. The next person continues the story by building more sentences based on the next two images.

