

past tenses

past simple: *worked, stopped, went, had, etc.*

- She **was** born in Berlin. (3 10)))
 They **got** married last year.
 On the way to Rome we **stopped** in Florence for the night.
 The plane **didn't arrive** on time.
 What time **did** you **get up** this morning?

- We use the past simple for finished actions in the past (when we say, ask, or know when they happened).
- Remember **Irregular verbs** p.165.

past continuous: *was / were + verb + -ing*

- 1 What **were** you **doing** at six o'clock last night? (3 11)))
 2 I **was driving** along the motorway when it started snowing.
 3 While I **was doing** the housework the children **were playing** in the garden.
 4 It was a cold night and it **was raining**. I **was watching** TV in the sitting room...

- 1 We use the past continuous to talk about an action in progress at a specific time in the past.
- 2 We often use the past continuous to describe a past action in progress which was interrupted by another action (expressed in the past simple).
- 3 We often use the past continuous with *while* for two actions happening at the same time.
- 4 We often use the past continuous to describe the beginning of a story or anecdote.

a Circle the correct form.

- The teacher gave Robbie a zero because he *cheated* / *had cheated* in the exam.
- 1 They didn't win the match although they *were training* / *had trained* every evening.
 - 2 Mike had an accident while he *cycled* / *was cycling* to work.
 - 3 I *cleaned* / *had cleaned* the house when I got home. It looked great.
 - 4 When we arrived, the match *started* / *had started*. We got there just in time and saw the whole match!
 - 5 The captain *didn't score* / *hadn't scored* any goals when the referee sent him off.
 - 6 My son got injured while he *played* / *was playing* basketball last Saturday.
 - 7 Luckily, we *stopped* / *had stopped* skiing when the snowstorm started. We were already back at the hotel.
 - 8 England *weren't losing* / *hadn't lost* any of their games when they played in the quarter-finals.
 - 9 The referee suspended the match because it *was raining* / *rained* too hard to play.

past perfect: *had + past participle*

- When they turned on the TV, the match **had** already **finished**. (3 12)))
 As soon as I shut the door, I realized that I'd **left** my keys on the table.
 We couldn't get a table in the restaurant because we **hadn't booked**.

- We use the past perfect when we are talking about the past and we want to talk about an earlier past action. Compare: *When John arrived, they went out.* (= first John arrived and then they went out)
When John arrived, they had gone out. (= they went out before John arrived)

using narrative tenses together

- It was a cold night and it **was raining**. I **was watching** TV in the sitting room. Suddenly I **heard** a knock at the door. I **got up** and **opened** the door. But there was nobody there. The person who **had knocked** on the door **had disappeared**... (3 13)))

- Use the past continuous (*was raining, was watching*) to set the scene.
- Use the past simple (*heard, got up, etc.*) to say what happened.
- Use the past perfect (*had knocked, had disappeared*) to say what happened before the previous past action.

b Complete with the past simple, past continuous, or past perfect.

- The marathon runner *was sweating* when she *crossed* the finish line. (sweat, cross)
- 1 The accident _____ when they _____ home. (happen, drive)
 - 2 The crowd _____ when the referee _____ the final whistle. (cheer, blow)
 - 3 I _____ her at first because she _____ so much. (not recognize, change)
 - 4 The police _____ her on the motorway because she _____ a seat belt. (stop, not wear)
 - 5 Some of the players _____ while the coach _____ to them. (not listen, talk)
 - 6 We _____ use the ski slope because it _____ enough. (not can, not snow)
 - 7 They _____ play tennis because they _____ a court. (not able to, not book)
 - 8 The player _____ a yellow card because he _____ his shirt. (get, take off)