

70 PAST SIMPLE



Ich verwende "past simple", wenn ich an einen bestimmten Zeitpunkt oder an eine bestimmte Zeitspanne zurückdenke. Ich verwende sie für folgende Zwecke:

A. PAST EVENTS/Vergangene Ereignisse

- A: Where **did** you **spend** your holidays last summer?
B: We **went** to Cromer.
A: Was there much to do there?
B: Oh, yes! We **went** swimming most days. We **played** a lot of tennis. We **went** fishing a few times and Debbie **caught** an enormous fish. The sun **shone** the whole week!



Ich berichte, was jemand tat oder was geschah. Ich verwende "past tense", weil ich an eine bestimmte Zeit zurückdenke und verwende "simple", wenn ich von einem Hauptereignis oder von einer Kette von Ereignissen spreche.

Bei der Wahl der "simple"-Form spielt für mich die Dauer der Handlung keine Rolle.

Die Ereignisse, von denen ich erzähle, können sein:

kurz: Debbie **caught** a fish.

lang: The sun **shone** the whole week.

wiederholt: We **played** a lot of tennis.

Past tense wird oft in Verbindung mit einer Zeit- oder Ortsbestimmung verwendet:

time: I was ill **yesterday**. I bought a new car **last week**.

place: I learnt a bit of English **at primary school**.

Communicative uses

1. Life story/Lebenslauf

Rickie Starr was born in London in 1952. He left school at the age of 16 and worked on an oil tanker for 3 years. In 1972 he formed a pop group called "The Shells" and their very first record was top of the hit parade.

2. Gossiping/Tratschen

A: What was Betty's party like?

B: It was awful! There were no nice boys there. I wore my new dress and Steve spilled orange juice all over it. There was nothing to eat. The music was terrible. I went home at nine o'clock!

B. PAST STATES/*Zustände in der Vergangenheit*

A: **Was** your childhood very happy, grandpa?

B: Oh yes! **I had** seven brothers and sisters and we **lived** in a little cottage in the country. The cottage **lay** in a beautiful valley. A little stream **ran** past our garden.



Ich beschreibe Zustände in der Vergangenheit.

Communicative use

Descriptions/*Beschreibungen*

My primary school was a very friendly place. Lots of flowers grew in the garden outside and roses climbed up the walls. My teacher had a long white beard and wore thick glasses. He looked like a gnome from a fairy tale!



Now try exercises 77, 78.

- A: I tried to phone you yesterday afternoon.
 B: I wasn't at home. I **was helping** Judy to paint her room.
 A: I called at your house at seven o'clock. Where were you?
 B: I **was listening** to records at Judy's.
 A: I phoned at midnight.
 B: I didn't hear the phone. The dog **was barking**.



Ich verwende "past progressive", um die begleitenden Vorgänge und Tätigkeiten zu einem Hauptereignis oder zu einem bestimmten Zeitpunkt zu beschreiben.

Hauptereignisse: was geschah	Begleitumstände: was nebenher passierte
I tried to phone I called at your house I phoned	I was helping Judy I was listening to records the dog was barking

Ob man "past simple" oder "past progressive" verwendet, hängt ausschließlich davon ab, welche Rolle die jeweilige Handlung in einem Satz oder Text spielt. Die "past progressive" kann folgende Funktionen haben:

- Begleitumstände*
When John arrived, I **was having** a bath.
- Beschreibungen in einem Erzähltext:*
I'll never forget arriving at Dover. It **was raining** heavily and black clouds **were racing** across the sky. People **were hiding** under their umbrellas.
- Zu einem bestimmten Zeitpunkt:*
At three o'clock this morning I **was studying** for my exam!
- Einleitender Satz*
I **was looking** for you yesterday. Where were you?
Hey! I **was reading** that newspaper! Give it back to me!

Communicative uses

- Explaining and excuses/*Entschuldigungen*
 A: Why didn't you do your homework yesterday?
 B: I was visiting my grandma in hospital.
 A: Why didn't you come to the youth club last night?
 B: I wasn't feeling well. Besides, it was raining.
- Stories: setting the scene/*Stimmungsbild*
 It was a peaceful May afternoon. The birds were singing in the trees and the butterflies were flying from flower to flower. Old Mrs Graham was sitting in a chair in front of her house. Suddenly a stranger appeared in front of her . . .



Now try exercises 78, 80.

The Difference Box

Past simple/Past progressive?

Der Sprecher wählt eine der beiden Formen aufgrund dessen, ob er eine Handlung als Hauptereignis oder Nebenumstand betrachtet. Dabei ist die Dauer der Handlung – ob kurz oder lang – nicht wichtig.

It **rained** every day during my holidays!
We **stayed** at home every day because it **was raining**.

I **didn't watch** TV last night because I **was playing** cards.
I **didn't play** cards last night because I **was watching** TV.

A: Did you enjoy the concert on the radio?
B: I **didn't listen** to it.

A: Why don't you answer me?
B: Sorry, I **wasn't listening**.


The AHA! Box

Past simple and progressive in stories

Two minutes after the alarm **was given** the firemen **arrived**. Quickly they **began** to unload their equipment. The building **was** already hidden in a cloud of smoke and flames **were pouring** out of the windows. A group of people **were** on the roof and **were shouting** for help. Some of them still **had** their night clothes on. When they **saw** the firemen, they all **ran** to the front of the building. Suddenly there **was** a loud explosion . . .

In einer Geschichte erfüllen die "past tense"-Formen drei Hauptfunktionen:

- Was geschah:* past simple
the alarm **was given**; the firemen **arrived**; they **began** to unload their equipment; they **saw** the firemen; they **ran** to the front of the building; there **was** a loud explosion
- Wie es war:* past simple
The building **was** hidden in a cloud of smoke; a group of people **were** on the roof; some **had** their night clothes on
- Was nebenher passierte:* past progressive
flames **were pouring** out of the windows; a group of people **were shouting** for help.

 Now try exercise 81.



82



76. PRESENT SIMPLE OR PROGRESSIVE (66, 68). Complete the dialogue.
Use your imagination!

- A: Hey, Valerie, . . . go to the cinema with me tonight?
B: Sorry, I can't. . . . volleyball.
A: Volleyball! . . . ?
B: Of course, I do. . . . every week!
A: What about tomorrow? . . . anything.
B: Sorry, but . . . every night this week. You see, we . . . in a tournament next week. I must go now. My Trainer . . . Bye!

77. PAST EVENTS (70). Use the notes to write a dialogue between Rod and Fay.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| R: (do in the holidays?) | F: (grandmother in Scotland) |
| R: (nice time?) | F: (fantastic – see lots of sights) |
| R: (weather?) | F: (rained 3 days – rest of time fine) |
| R: (swim?) | F: (Loch Ness) |
| R: (monster?) | F: (yes – run away!) |

78. PAST EVENTS (70). Use the notes to write the life story of Ricky Starr.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1965 born in Liverpool | 1987 Song 'No Future' – no. 1 in hit parade |
| 1978 buys guitar – first lessons | 1987 leaves bank, marries Nora Chomsky |
| 1981 leaves school → bank | 1988 buys Rolls Royce, castle in Scotland |
| 1983 meets Des Hymes → 'The Core' | 1988 quarrels with Des – end of 'The Core' |
| 1984 first concert tour – sold out | 1989 quarrels with Nora – Des marries Nora |
| 1986 first record 'All in the Past' | 1989 back to work in bank |

79. PAST PROGRESSIVE (72). Add a reason to the events. Use your imagination!

1. I couldn't answer the telephone because . . .
2. We couldn't play football yesterday because . . .
3. Mary shouted at Jennifer in class yesterday because . . .
4. They didn't hear the thieves get in through the window because . . .
5. The headmistress was very angry with our class yesterday because . . .
6. My parents couldn't find us because . . .

80. SETTING THE SCENE (72). Choose some of the words below to write the first few lines to the horror story 'Murder at Chain Castle'.

owl – hoot, wind – howl, rain – beat against, dog – bark, guests – sleep, church bells – ring, some rats – eat, Lord Vladimir Chain – ?
It was midnight at Chain Castle . . .

81. PAST SIMPLE/PROGRESSIVE IN STORIES (AHA p82). Fill in the gaps using these verbs.

say – fly – lie – hear – happen – hold – can – reach – film – see – burn – come – stand – try – drive – run

The accident . . . at six o'clock yesterday. Mr Lane . . . along the main road away from the town centre when he . . . a helicopter above him. It . . . towards some woods and smoke . . . out of the cockpit. A few seconds later, he . . . an explosion. When Mr Lane . . . the woods, he . . . hardly believe his eyes: the wreck of the helicopter . . . and the pilot . . . on the ground near to it. Several people . . . a few metres away, but no one . . . to help the pilot. One man even . . . a camera and . . . the scene. Suddenly one of the men . . . up to him. 'Don't worry,' he . . . 'We're only making a film!'