

Past simple and past continuous

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 Present simple → past simple

Change the sentences. Use the time word in brackets.

Example: I take the train every day. (yesterday) → **I took the train yesterday.**

- 1 I take the train to work. (yesterday) _____
- 2 She sends the report at 5 pm. (last Friday) _____
- 3 We have a meeting on Monday. (last Monday) _____
- 4 They go to the airport by taxi. (two days ago) _____
- 5 He doesn't check his email. (yesterday) _____
- 6 Do you leave the office at 6? (yesterday) _____

2 Present continuous → past continuous

Change the sentences. Use the time in brackets. **am / is / are + -ing → was / were + -ing**

Example: I am waiting now. (at 8:30) → **I was waiting at 8:30.**

- 1 I am waiting for the bus. (at 8 am yesterday) _____
- 2 They are travelling to Riga. (at this time last week) _____
- 3 She is writing a report. (when I called) _____
- 4 We aren't working today. (yesterday at 3 pm) _____
- 5 Is he driving to the office? (at 9 am) _____
- 6 What are you doing? (at 10 pm last night) _____

3 Formation: complete the table

	Past simple	Past continuous
+	I waited. / She called.	I was waiting. / They _____ waiting.
-	I didn't wait.	I _____ waiting. / They weren't waiting.
?	_____ you wait?	_____ you waiting?
Short answers	Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.	Yes, I was. / No, I _____.
Signal words	yesterday, then, when	at 8:30, while, when

4 Past simple or past continuous?

Write the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Remember: **was / were + -ing** = long activity in progress · **past simple** = short action that interrupts it.
I **was reading** your message **when** my battery **died**. · **While I was waiting**, I **received** a message.

- 1 I _____ (wait) for the bus when it _____ (start) to rain.
- 2 While we _____ (have) a meeting, the fire alarm _____ (go) off.
- 3 She _____ (check) in at the hotel when she _____ (realise) she didn't have her passport.
- 4 What _____ you _____ (do) when the manager _____ (call)?
- 5 The printer _____ (stop) while I _____ (print) the tickets.
- 6 They _____ (not / listen) when the announcement _____ (come).
- 7 When the plane _____ (land), it _____ (snow).
- 8 I _____ (read) your message when my phone battery _____ (die).

5 Speaking: Alibi

Ask three classmates: "What were you doing yesterday at ...?" Write short notes. Then tell the class one surprising answer.

"What were you doing yesterday at 1 pm?" – "I was having lunch with a client."

Name	7 am	1 pm	6 pm	9 pm

6 How well can I do this?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| I can form the past continuous (was/were + -ing). | ✓ ~ |
| I can choose past simple or past continuous (when / while). | ✓ ~ |

✓ = I can do this · ~ = I need more practice