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# The Past Tense



## THINK

Underline the verbs that talk about actions that were complete at a definite time in the past. Circle the actions that continued over a period of time.

1. Mansoor was fixing his tabla.
2. Radha loved my chicken curry.
3. Our school won the football tournament.
4. Why was Tanya crying?
5. The tornado damaged the park.
6. Harsh was collecting rare songs.



## LEARN

### Simple Past and Past Continuous Tense

Notice the verbs in these sentences.

- Rania **swam** with her friend.
- Rania **was swimming** with her friend.

The tense of a verb tells us the time of an action. You have learnt about the **simple past** and the **past continuous** tenses.

#### simple past

talks about an action that took place in the past and is complete or shows past habit

uses the past tense form of the verb (in singular or plural)

- Rakhi **danced** gracefully.
- My parents **went** for a walk every evening.

#### past continuous

talks about an action that was happening at some point or for a period of time in the past

uses **was/were** + the **-ing** form of the verb

- I **was eating** my lunch early.
- Tara **was travelling** by train yesterday.



# PRACTISE

A. Fill in the blanks with the simple past forms of the verbs in the brackets.



I still remember my visit to the mountains last winter. It was (be) so cold that the water froze (freeze) on the lakes and we had (have) a lot of fun skating on the ice. We did (do) not realise then the problems that the freezing of water could create. The water froze (freeze) in the taps as well and we had (have) no water. There was (be) no water even to drink. We experienced (experience) drought conditions even though there was (be) ice everywhere!

Every morning, we drew (draw) lots to see who would bring ice to heat up in order to get some water.



B. Fill in the blanks with the past continuous forms of the verbs in the brackets.



We were expecting (expect) many guests that day.

Father was cooking (cook) delicious dishes.

Mother was studying (tidy) the living room while my elder brother

was laying (lay) the table. I

was helping (help) my brother by bringing the plates and the spoons. My

sister was feeding (feed) her little baby, so she could not help us, but she

was trying (try) to clear the room while the baby ate. All of us were doing

(do) our best to make it a special day. After all, it isn't every day that one's grandfather turns 75!





C. Imagine your mother has been transferred to a new city. You have to prepare for an interview at the new school. Answer the questions given below.

1. Where were you born?  
I was born in Bangalore.
2. When did you come to this city?
3. Where did you study before you came here?
4. When did you join your previous school?
5. What did you like about your previous school?
6. Which was the last book you read?
7. Why did you like the book?
8. Did you play any sport?
9. What extra-curricular activity did you do in your previous school?
10. Did you win any awards in it?

D. Fill in the blanks with the simple past or the past continuous forms of the verbs in the brackets.

1. Rohit worked (work) as a security guard in a multinational company, and in the evening he learnt (learn) English at a language school.
2. Do not forget to take your umbrella. It was raining (rain) heavily in the morning and you were running (run) a temperature yesterday.
3. I am sorry, I did not understand what you were saying (say) because everybody was talking (talk) very loudly there.
4. Roshan loves (love) animals. He plays (play) with the roadside dogs and feeds (feed) them biscuits. His parents thinking (think) of buying a pet for him.

E. Identify the errors in the passage given below. Then, write the corrections in the corresponding blanks. Put a cross (X) in lines that have no errors.

Yamini were upset. Her friend Ishika was

was



angry with her. Prateek asking Yamini why she was upset. Yamini tell Prateek the reason. Prateek smiles. He was suggest Yamini to talk to Ishika. Yamini decide to take Prateek's advice. She go up to Ishika and greeted her. Ishika looking at Yamini blankly. Yamini gather all of her courage and apologised to Ishika for losing her favourite book. Ishika understand and accepted her friend's apology. Then, they both eats lunch together.

asked  
told  
smiled, suggested  
decided  
went  
looked  
gathered  
X  
understood  
X  
ate



F. Rewrite the sentences with the verbs in the simple past tense and then in the past continuous tense.

1. She is studying hard.

She studied hard.

She was studying hard.

2. The boy is running quite fast.

The boy ran quite fast.

The boy was running quite fast.

3. I am watching the television.

I watched the television.

I was watching television.



4. The boy eats his breakfast with his parents.

The boy ate his breakfast with his parents.

The boy was eating breakfast with his parents.

5. Rohan is washing his clothes.

Rohan washed his clothes.

Rohan was washing his clothes.



6. My sister is walking very slowly.

My sister walked very slowly.

My sister was walking very slowly.

## PLAY



Creative Thinking



Art Integration



I. Mime any action of your choice in front of the class. As soon as someone is sure what it is, she/he should raise her/his hand and guess the action with the sentence, 'When I stopped you, you were \_\_\_\_\_ + -ing \_\_\_\_\_.'

For example, 'When I stopped you, you were fixing the shelf you broke!'