

15 The Past Tense







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.

- l. 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.





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.

PRACTUSE

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 coas (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

those (freeze) in the taps as well and we had (have) no water. There was (be) no water even to drink. We experience) drought conditions even though there was (be) ice everywhere!

Every morning, we <u>drew</u> (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 experienced) many guests that day.

Father was cook napook) 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 feedin (feed) her little

baby, so she could not help us, but she

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. |
|---|
| I. 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. |
| I. Rohit correct (work) as a security guard in a multinational company, and in the evening he learn (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 runningrun) a temperature yesterday. 3. Lam sorry, I did not understand to it. |
| everybody was talking (talk) very loudly there saying (say) becau |
| 4. Roshan (oves (love) animals. He the roadside dogs and feeds (feed) them biscuits. His parents |
| E. Identify the errors in the passage given below. Then, write the corrections in the corresponding blanks. Put a cross (X) in lines that |
| Yamini were upset. Her friend Ishika was |

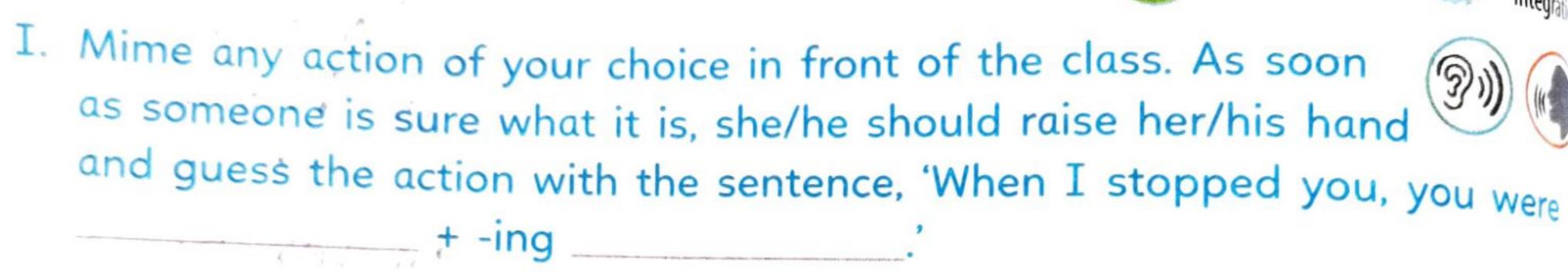
angry with her. Prateek asking Yamini why asked she was upset. Yamini tell Prateek the reason. smiled, suggested prateek smiles. He was suggest Yamini to decided talk to Ishika. Yamini decide to take Prateek's went advice. She go up to Ishika and greeted her. looked Ishika looking at Yamini blankly. Yamini gathered gather all of her courage and apologised to Ishika for losing her favourite under stood book. Ishika understand and accepted her friend's apology. Then, they both eats lunch together. 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 hord. 2. The boy is running quite fast. The boy ran quite fast. The boy was running quiet 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 cate 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.

P L A Y





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