



Past simple and continuous



1 Tick (✓) the correct boxes.

- What's a hurricane?
A very small mouse
A very strong wind
- What happened first?
The hurricane hit Wibble.
Splodge started reading.



GRAMMAR

REMEMBER! 1

The past simple is to talk about yourself, other people, animals or things *before now*. It's for things that are finished.

*There **was** a big storm yesterday.*
*People **didn't like** going out in it.*
***Did** the storm **start** in the morning?*

2 Circle the verbs that are in the past simple.

Yesterday Splodge went to school. He saw some of his friends. They played a game of basketball in the playground. Splodge's team lost the game. Splodge didn't like losing. He looked very angry afterwards.

REMEMBER! 2

The past continuous is to say that somebody was *in the middle of* doing something. It's for a time *before now*, e.g. at six o'clock yesterday, at three o'clock last night, on Saturday last week.

*I **was talking** to Lionel at six o'clock yesterday.*
*He **wasn't working** very hard last weekend.*
***Were** they **visiting** friends last Monday?*

3 Circle the verbs in the past continuous.

At a quarter to four in the morning Splodge was learning a poem. He was bored with it because it was very long. At four o'clock he was reading the poem aloud. He was making a lot of noise. He was walking up and down the corridor outside Ruff's bedroom. Ruff was trying to sleep but he couldn't because of Splodge.

REMEMBER! 3

Often when you're in the middle of doing something, another thing happens. Look at which action starts first:

First action

Splodge was reading a poem when ...
Ruff was making a potion when ...

Second action

the hurricane hit the town.
the chimney fell off the house.

4 Read the sentences. Which action started first? Tick the correct boxes.

- Splodge's teacher was marking homework when the hurricane came.
 The teacher was marking. The hurricane came.
- 1 Tumble was doing a crossword when the lights went off.
 Tumble was doing a crossword. The lights went off.
- 2 Mabel was driving her car when a tree fell in front of it.
 Mabel was driving her car. The tree fell.

REMEMBER! 4

Use the past continuous for things you were in the middle of doing (first action).
 Use the past simple when another thing happens (second action).

First action: past continuous

Mildred was watching television when ...
Dr Bertie was talking to a patient when ...

Second action: past simple

she heard a loud crash.
the nurse came in.

5 Complete the sentences. Use the past continuous and the past simple.

- The mayor *was listening* (listen) to the news when
 a tree *fell* (fall) on the town hall.
- 1 Mrs Rafbat (have) lunch when she
 (hear) a loud bang.
- 2 The shopkeepers (chat) when the wind
 (begin) to blow.
- 3 Mr Catmonger (feed) his birds when his
 fence (fall) down.
- 4 Splodge's French teacher (ride) her bicycle when the wind
 (knock) her over.



PRACTICE

6 What were people doing when the hurricane hit Wibble? What happened to them? Read the words and write sentences.

► *Dr Bertie*

bandage patient's leg / rain / start

Dr Bertie was bandaging a patient's leg when the rain started.

1 *Mrs Sweetfix*

make ice cream / the lights / go out

2 *Mr and Mrs Rafbat*

have a dinner party / their cat / run into the room

3 *Professor Wild*

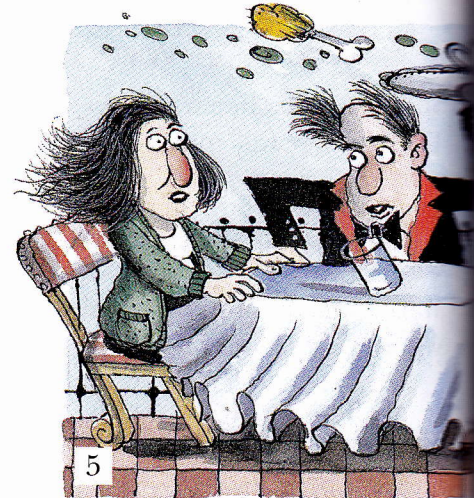
test his new invention / lightning / strike his laboratory

4 *The policeman*

read a book / Professor Wild / telephone

5 *The newsagent*

open his shop / hear / a thunderclap





7 The hurricane went on for six days. What else was happening in Wibble when it reached its top speed? Look at the pictures. Use the verbs below if you need help.

- swim deliver / the post serve / a meal walk / their dogs
- conduct / an orchestra ✓ make / notes ride / a skateboard
- fly / kites fill / teeth sunbathe post / a letter

When the hurricane reached its top speed ...

- ▶ A conductor *was conducting an orchestra*.....
- 1 A dentist.....
- 2 Two ladies.....
- 3 A boy.....
- 4 Some children.....
- 5 A waiter.....
- 6 A postman.....
- 7 Two people.....
- 8 Mildred.....
- 9 A journalist.....
- 10 Splodge and Sticky.....

- 8** Professor Wild lives high up on a hill in Wibble. Fill in the gaps to find out what happened to his house during the hurricane. Choose the past continuous or the past simple. Think carefully.

I ► *was having* (have) my supper when the hurricane
(1) (start). A little later I (2) (watch)
television when I (3) (hear) a loud crash. The garage had
collapsed on top of my lovely car! I (4) (explain) this to the
car mechanic when suddenly my garden wall (5) (fall) over.
It was terrible! The next day I (6) (talk) to my friend on the
telephone when the telephone line (7) (snap) in half.

The following night I (8) (try) to sleep when five windows
(9) (smash) to the ground. I (10) (mend)
the windows when suddenly I (11) (see) my dog flying
through the air. The hurricane carried it all the way to Wibble Square!

Later I (12) (mix) some very dangerous chemicals when
a big test tube (13) (spill) onto the carpet.

An hour later I (14) (clear) up the mess when
I (15) (realise) that my television and cooker had exploded.

- 9** Ask your teacher if you can play this game. Play in two teams. Team A, say the beginning of a sentence. Use I and the past continuous. Team B, finish the sentence. Use the past simple.

► Team A *I was talking to a friend when ...*

Team B *... I realised he was an alien.*

Team B *I was riding my bike when ...*

Team A *... I bumped into a hippo.*