



University of Basrah  
College of Education for Women  
History Department

Third Stage

Subject: English

Lecture 5

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# Unit Three: Telling Tales

## UNIT 3

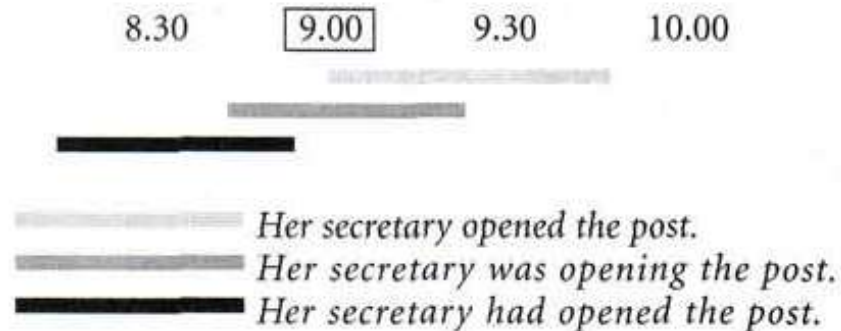
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### Introduction to past tenses

We use different past tenses to focus on different moments and periods of time in the past.

Look at the diagram. Read the sentences.

*When Andrea arrived at work at 9.00 a.m. ...*



## 3.1 Past Simple

### Form

The form of the Past Simple is the same for all persons.

### Positive

I He/She/It We You They	finished left arrived	yesterday. at 3 o'clock. three weeks ago.
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### Negative

I She They (etc.)	didn't	finish leave	yesterday. at 3 o'clock.
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### Question

When	did	you he they (etc.)	finish the report? get married?
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### Short answer

Did you enjoy the meal?	Yes, we did. No, we didn't.
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## Use

The Past Simple is used to express:

- 1 a finished action in the past.

*We **met** in 2000.*

*I **went** to Manchester last week.*

*John **left** two minutes ago.*

- 2 actions that follow each other in a story.

*Mary **walked** into the room and **stopped**. She **listened** carefully. She **heard** a noise coming from behind the curtain. She **threw** the curtain open, and then she **saw** ...*

3 a past situation or habit.

*When I **was** a child, we **lived** in a small house by the sea. Every day I **walked** for miles on the beach with my dog.*

This use is often expressed with *used to*.

*We **used to** live in a small house ... I **used to** walk for miles ...*

## ▶▶ Irregular verbs p157

### Past Simple and time expressions

Look at the time expressions that are common with the Past Simple.

I met her	last night.
	two days ago.
	yesterday morning.
	in 2001.
	in summer.
	when I was young.

## ▶ 3.2 Past Continuous

### Form

#### Positive and negative

I He She It	was wasn't	working.
We You They	were weren't	

#### Question

What	was	I she he it	doing?
	were	we you they	

*Were you looking for me?  
Were they waiting outside?*

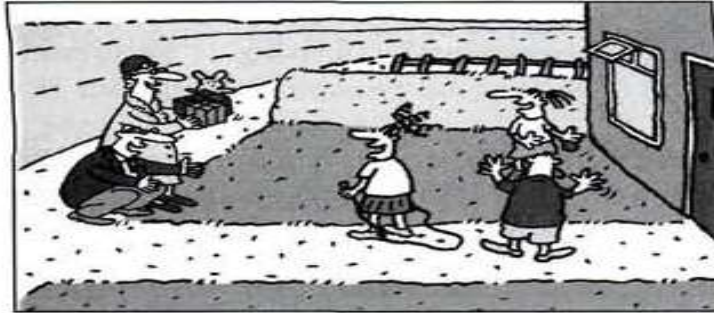
#### Short answer

*Yes, I was./No I wasn't.  
Yes, they were./No, they weren't.*

### Use

We often use the Past Continuous in sentences with the Past Simple. The Past Continuous refers to longer, background activities, while the Past Simple refers to shorter, completed actions.

The children were playing in the garden ...



... when their grandparents arrived.

The Past Continuous is used:

- 1 to express activities in progress before, and probably after, a particular time in the past.  
*At 7 o'clock this morning I **was having** my breakfast.*  
*I walked past your house last night. There was an awful lot of noise.*  
*What **were you doing**?*
- 2 for descriptions.  
*Jan looked beautiful. She **was wearing** a green cotton dress. Her eyes **were shining** in the light of the candles that **were burning** nearby.*
- 3 to express an interrupted past activity.  
*When the phone rang, I **was having** a shower.*  
*While we **were playing** tennis, it started to rain.*
- 4 to express an incomplete activity in the past in order to contrast with the Past Simple that expresses a completed activity.  
*I **was reading** a book during the flight. (I didn't finish it.)*  
*I **watched** a film during the flight. (the whole film)*

#### Note

The Past Simple is usually used to express a repeated past habit or situation. But the Past Continuous can be used if the repeated habit becomes a longer setting for something. Compare:

*I **went out with** Jack for ten years.*

*I first met Harry while I **was going out with** Jack.*



## GRAMMAR SPOT

- Which tense is used in these two sentences? Which verbs are regular? Which are irregular?  
He **laughed** and **went** up to the baby.  
He **danced** and **sang**.  
Find more examples in the story and underline them.
- What are the tenses in these sentences? What is the difference in meaning?  
He **laughed** when he **saw** the baby.  
He **was laughing** when he **saw** the baby.  
He **laughed** when he'd **seen** the baby. (he'd = he had)
- Find two examples of the Past Simple passive in the story.

▶▶ Grammar Reference 3.1–3.4 pp137–139

## Pronunciation

- Work with a partner. Write the verbs from the box in the chart according to the pronunciation of the *-ed* ending.

laughed covered wanted stopped shouted listened  
opened boasted looked danced screamed pointed

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
laughed		

**T 3.2** Listen, check, and practise.

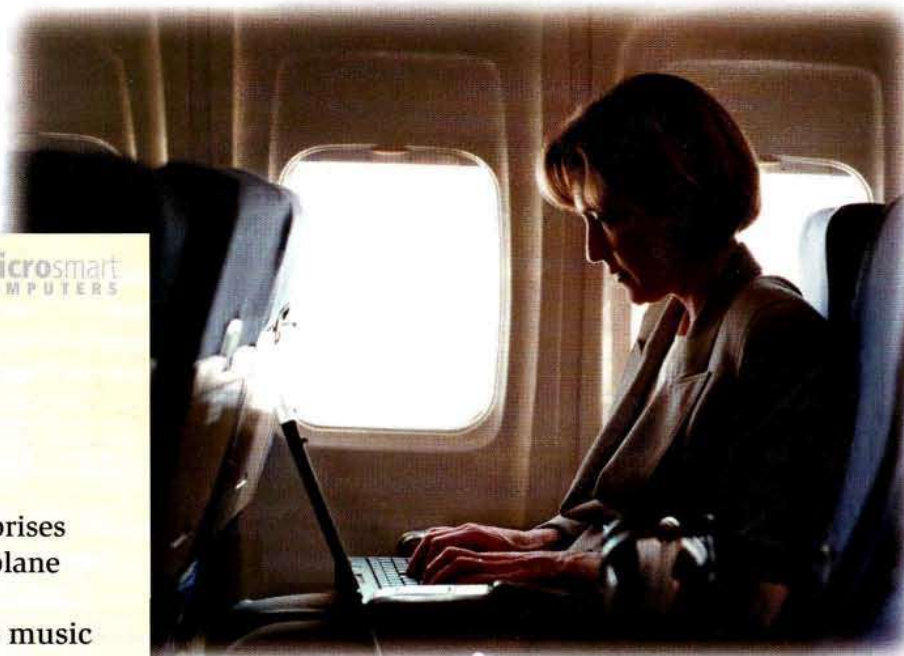


## PRACTICE

### What was she doing?

- 1 Judy works for MicroSmart Computers in London. Read about what she did yesterday.

microsmart COMPUTERS	
6.30	got up
6.45 – 7.15	packed her suitcase
7.30 – 8.30	drove to the airport
9.20 – 10.15	flew to Glasgow
11.00 – 12.45	had a meeting
1.00 – 2.15	had lunch
2.30 – 4.15	visited Dot Com Enterprises
5.30 – 6.15	wrote a report on the plane
8.00 – 8.45	put the baby to bed
9.00 – 11.00	relaxed and listened to music



- 2 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about what Judy was doing at these times.

7.00 a.m.	8.00 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	11.30 a.m.	
1.30 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	6.00 p.m.	8.30 p.m.	10.00 p.m.

**T 3.3** Listen and check.

- 3 Write a similar list about what you did yesterday. Ask and answer questions with your partner.

What was she doing at 7 o'clock yesterday morning?

She was packing her suitcase.

What were you doing at 7 o'clock yesterday morning?

I was having a shower.

## Discussing grammar

8 Complete the sentences. Check your answers with a partner. Discuss the differences in meaning.

1 When I arrived at the barbecue, they \_\_\_\_\_  
eating sausages.

When I arrived at the barbecue, they \_\_\_\_\_  
eaten all the sausages.

2 We thanked our teacher for everything she  
\_\_\_\_\_ doing to help us pass the test.

We thanked our teacher for everything she  
\_\_\_\_\_ done to help us pass the test.

3 He told me that they \_\_\_\_\_ staying at the  
Carlton Hotel.

He told me that they \_\_\_\_\_ stayed at the  
Carlton Hotel before.

4 \_\_\_\_\_ you learn Italian when you went to Italy?  
\_\_\_\_\_ you already learned Italian when you went  
to Italy?

5 \_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare write *Hamlet*?  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Hamlet* written by Shakespeare?

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THE  
Best  
is yet to  
Come