**Unit 3 / Past Simple and Past Continuous الماضي البسيط و الماضي المُستمر**

**3. 1 / Past Simple**

The Past Simple Tense – This Tense is used to express an action or activity

that happened or occurred and finished in past.

In order to form or (write) the verb in the past, we have to know that the English verbs are of two kinds: **regular verbs** الأفعال القياسية & **Irregular verbs** الأفعال الشاذة

With the regular verbs, **the past tense** is formed by adding (-ed) or only (-d) to the base of the verb. Besides the past tense and past participle have the same form.

Examples: call ---- call**ed** / finish ---- finish**ed** / happen ---- happen**ed /** want**يُريد** ---- want**ed**

live ---- live**d** / complete ----- complete**d /** like ---- like**d / etc.**

play ---- play**ed /** stay ------ stay**ed /** survey …. survey**ed /**

carry ---- carr**ied /** study ----- stud**ied /** supply…. suppl**ied /** signify …. signif**ied /**

simplify…. simplif**ied / specify**…...specif**ied /** testify……testif**ied /** vary …var**ied / etc.**

**\*** As with the **irregular verbs** the case is different**,** as some of the verbs follow **a variation** of conjugation **تصريف الأفعال** as in the attached list. القائمة المُرفقة

**The adverbs of time** that come with this tense are:

ago / last year / last week / last Sunday / last month / last century / last night / last ……

in 2008 / in 1988 / in the **1980s** / in the previous day / the day before yesterday / once upon a time / once …etc.

**2. 2 / The Past Continuous Tense الماضي المُستمر**

In this lesson we look at the structure and the use of the Past Continuous tense

**The past continuous tense**, also known as the past progressive tense, expresses an action that started in the past and that was in progress at a particular moment in the past**.**

**زمن الماضي المُستمر ،** والذي يُعرف أيضا ب progressive يُعبّر عن فعل بدأ في الماضي وكان قيد الإستمرار (أي في حالة إستمرارية) في وقت ما أو فترة معينة في الماضي.

The past continuous is formed from the **past tense of verbs to be** **+** the -**ing** form of the verb (**i.e.** the **main verb + ing أسم الفاعل**):

|  |
| --- |
| The verb in the past continuous tense = **Be** + **Present Participle**  S. + (**was** / **were**) + **main V. +** -**ing** |

The general structure of a sentence in the past continuous tense:

**----->** Subject + **be** (was / were) + **the present participle** + ………...**.**

**Examples:** I **was eating** dinner at 8 o’clock yesterday evening.

The children **were sleeping** yesterday evening.

This time last year they **were living** in London.

**W**hen to use the Past continuous tense**.** This tense is used**:**

**1.** Torefer to a continuing action or state that was happening at some point in the past and continued for a certain time in the past.

**Examples:** At three o’clock yesterday, I **was working** in the garden.

As he spoke, the children **were laughing** at his jokes.

The wind **was blowing** hard yesterday evening.

**To form the negative form**:

**e.g.** They **were *not* playing** football at 9am this morning**.**

**To form the interrogative form:**

**e.g.** What **were *you* doing** at 10pm last night**?**

**2. Also,** we can use **the past continuous** for the background of a story**:** **i.e.** when more than one actions happened in the past (one **in progress** مُستمر while the other **interrupted** it قاطعهُ). Usually we use with this case the two words '***while***’ and ‘*when*'. We put or write the verb in progress in the **continuous tense, i.e.** ( [was or were] + **the main verb + ing أسم الفاعل** )

While the **interrupted verb** is put or written in **the past simple** (regular or irregular):

**Examples:**

**(a)-** We **were sleeping** when the earth quake **happened**.

Or we can say ------> When the earth quake **happened,** we **were sleeping**.

**(b)-** **While** the boys **were playing** tennis**,** it **started** to rain.

Or we can say -----> It started to rain **while** the boys **were playing** tennis.

**(c)-** I **was walking** home when I met my old friend Sarah.

Or we can say -----> I met my old friend Sarah **while** I **was walking** home.

**e.g.** The students **were making** noise when their teacher **came**.

**Note / e.g.** I burnt my hands when I **was cooking**.

**e.g.** He had an accident when he **was walking** home.

**Interrogative form** ----> **Were** the students **making** noise when their teacher came**?** الإستفهام

**Negative form** -----> The students were **not** making noise when their teacher came. النفي

**3.** To emphasize that something lasted for a while. This use is often optional and we usually use it with time expressions like **'all day'** or **'all evening'** or **'for hours'**.

**Examples:** We **were working** in the garden all day.

He **was reading** all evening.

**Note 1 /** There are certain verbs that cannot be used in progressive: which are called **Non-continuous Verbs:**

\* **Feeling (emotions)** – appreciate / care / envy / fear / feel / hate / like / love / prefer / want / wish /

/ dislike / desire /

\* **Senses** – appear / feel / hear / see / seem / smell / sound / taste.

\* **Verbs of the Mind** – believe / doubt / forget / imagine / know / mean / realize / recognize /

remember / suppose / understand / **think\***

**\* Verbs of Possession** – belong / have\* / own / possess

**\* communication –** agree, deny, disagree, mean, promise, satisfy, surprise.

**\* Others** – be / appear / seem / exist / look\* / cost / owe / **weigh**\* /

**Note 2 /** One final caution**:** Though the irregularities are few, not every verb is suited to describing a continuous action. Certain verbs can’t be used in the past continuous tense. One common example is the verb **‘arrive’**.

**e.g.** At noon, he was arriving. X (Incorrect)

**e.g.** At noon, he arrived. ✓ (correct)

**Exercises**

**Q. 1 /** Fill in the blanks with **past simple** and **past continuous** to complete the following

sentences:

1. We ………………………TV. when we ………………. a loud noise. (**watch / hear**)
2. When we ……………………. a loud noise**,** we ………………….TV. (**hear / watch**)
3. The children ……………………when their father……………..**.** (**not – sleep / arrive**)
4. When the police ……………………. the door, they ……………. dinner. (**knock / have**)
5. While she ……………………..., she ………………………the lost ring. (**work / find**)
6. …………………………in the garden when it ……………….to rain**?** (**you play / start**)

**Q. 2 /** Choose the correct answer

**1**. My brother and sister \_\_\_\_\_ playing tennis at 11am yesterday.

a. are b. were c. was d. is e. am

**2**. \_\_\_\_\_ you still working at 7pm last night**?**

a. Was b. Is c. Were d. Are e. Shall

**3**. Snow \_\_\_\_\_ lightly when we watched through the window.

a. will fall b. was falling c. were falling d. is falling e. won’t fall

**4**. Somebody threw a stone at the football player \_\_\_\_\_ he was running.

a. which b. while c. whose d. why e. what