



# ***Past Simple & Past Continuous***

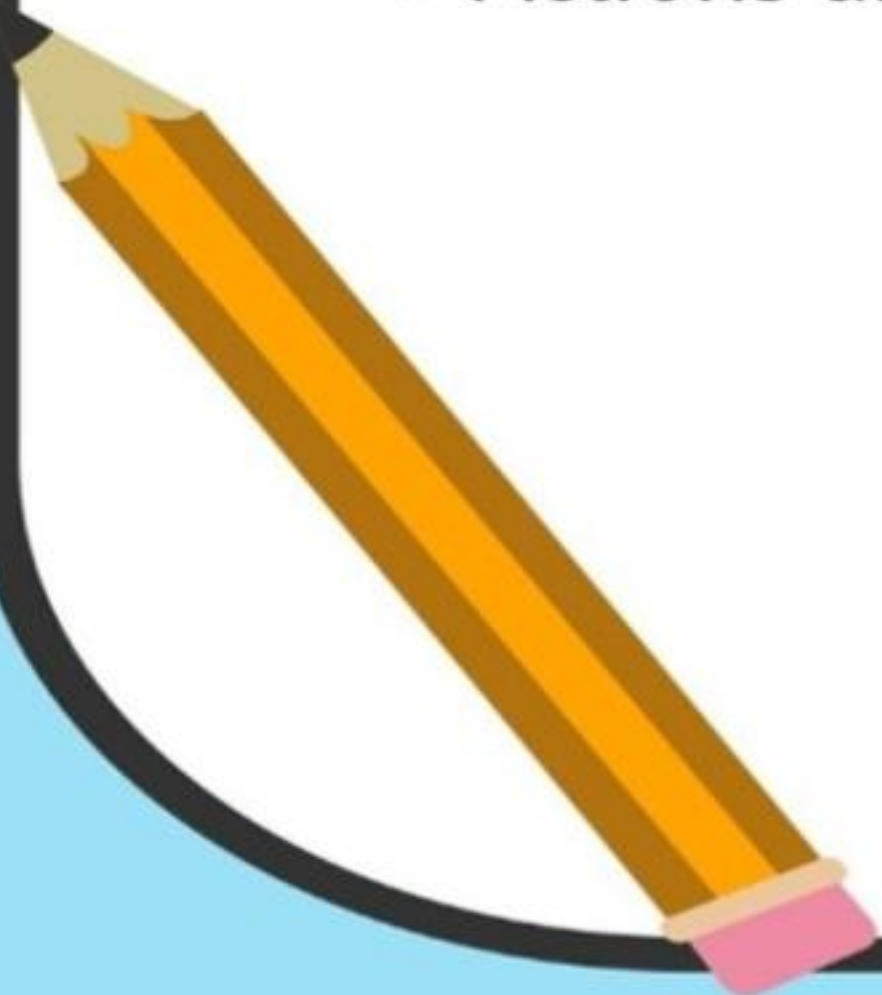
## ***Grammar Presentation***

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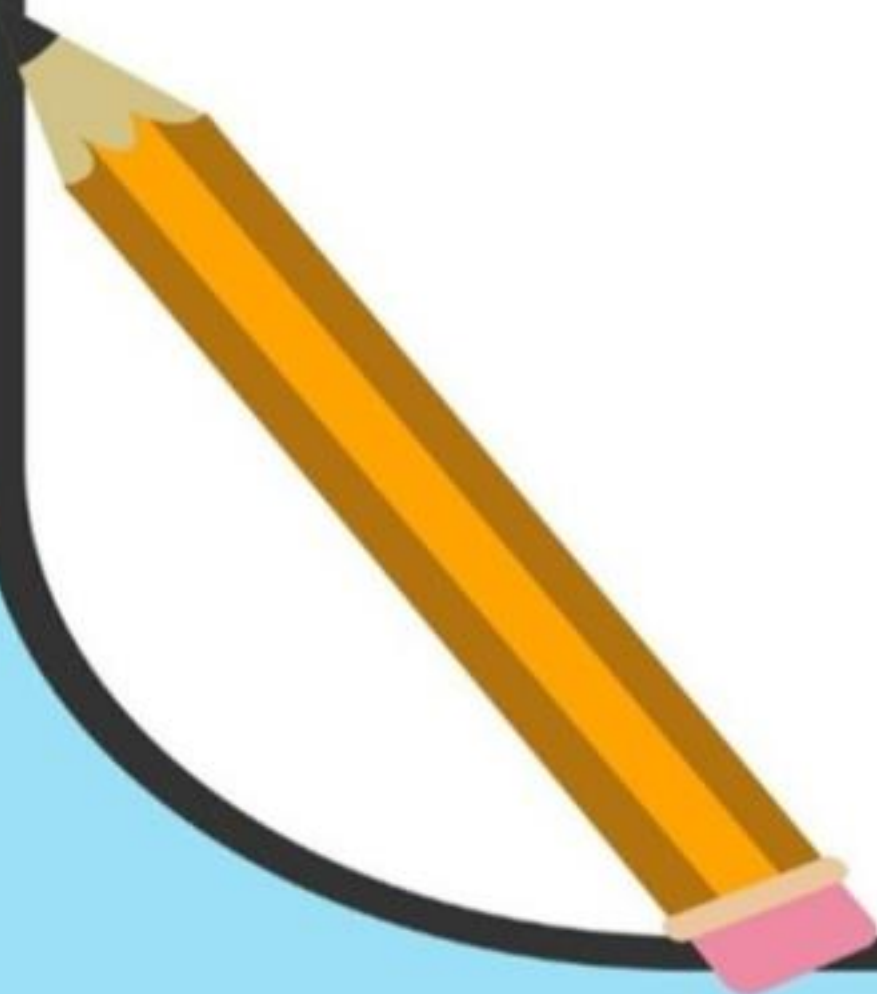
## Why do we use Past Simple Tense?

- We use past simple to talk about completed actions in the past.
- Past simple talks about finished past events with no relation to present.
- We usually use past simple tense to tell stories or list of events.
- Actions are always completed in past simple tense.



# Why do we use Past Continuous Tense?

- We use past continuous to talk about the ***actions in progress*** in the past.
- Past Continuous or Past Progressive is usually used to talk about ***actions in the background***.
- It expresses a *descriptive past*. It makes our stories livelier.







Past continuous is mainly used for describing the **background actions** in the past. On the other hand past simple is used to talk about the **completed single actions**.

*for example...*

"It was a great day. The birds *were singing*, the sun *was shining* and suddenly a car *crashed* into the tree."

"She *phoned* me while it *was raining*."



When you put when or while in the first clause, you have to use a comma (,). On the other hand, you do not need to put a comma before when or while, if you start the second clause.

***for example...***

When my mother broke the glass, I was listening to music.

I was listening to music when my mother broke the glass. *(use no comma!)*





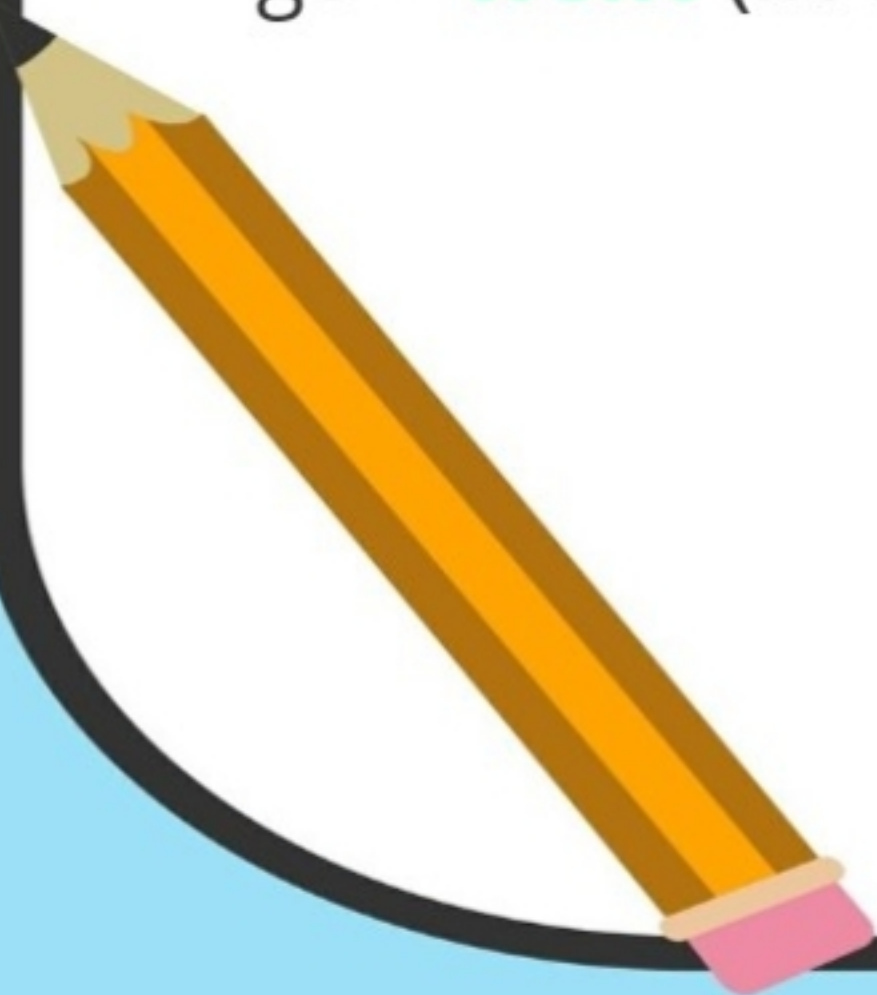
# How do we form Past Simple Tense?

We use the second form (past simple form ) of the verb. The verbs can be either regular or irregular. Regular verbs take **-ed** form.

*for example...*

play > play**ed** (regular verb)

go > **went** (irregular verb)



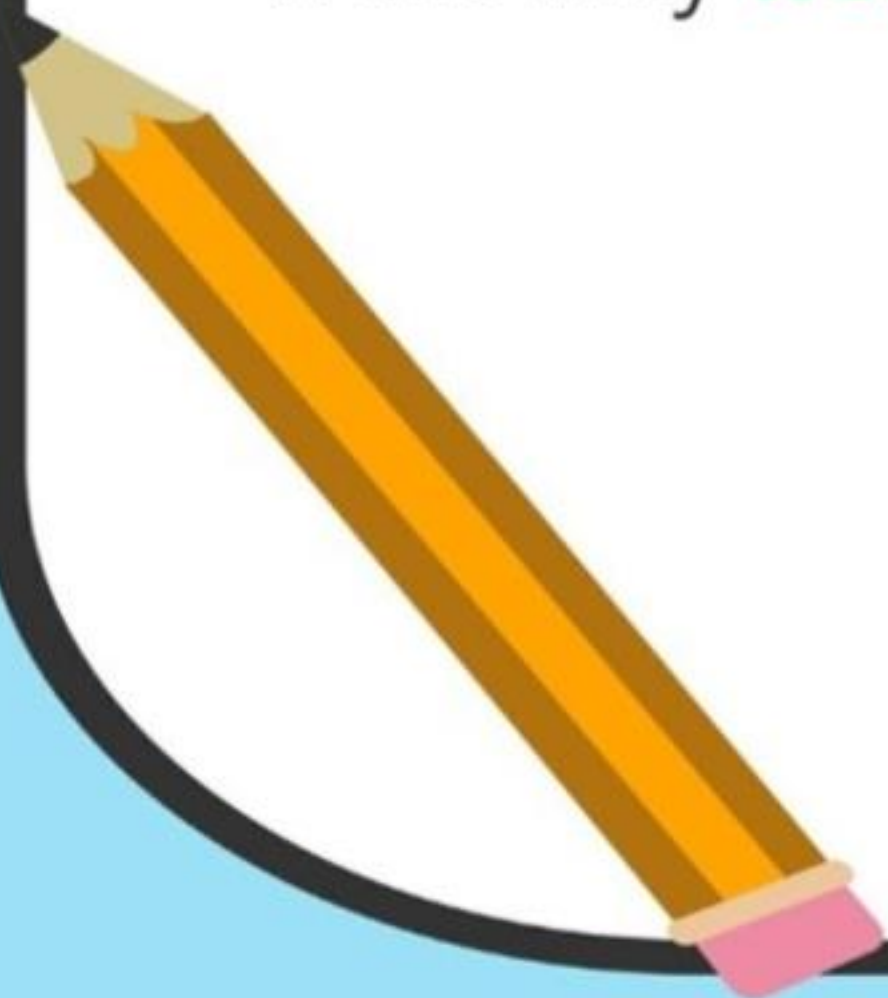
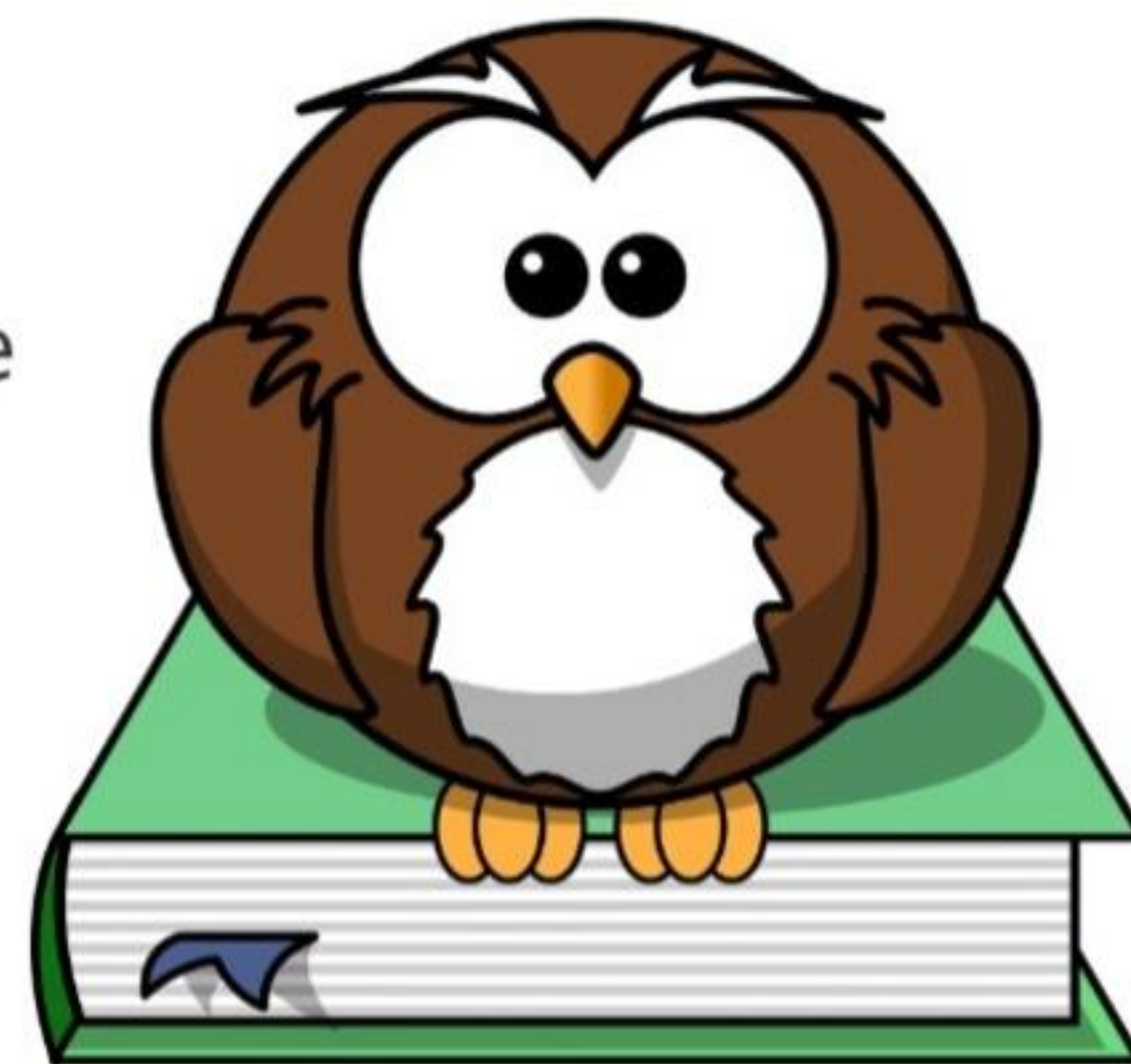
# How do we form Past Continuous Tense?

For Past Continuous tense, we use **was** or **were** as helping verbs and also the main verb takes "**-ing**" form.

*for example...*

I **was sleeping** at two o'clock yesterday afternoon.

While they **were having** dinner, Elisa came home.







## Tip

Other past tenses, such as *past continuous* or *present perfect*, are also completed in the past. However, we do not focus on the completion aspect with them. In past simple tense **we emphasize the completion of the action**. That's why we prefer to use *past simple* tense to tell stories or past events, because the actions happen one after another.

### *for example...*

We **went** to a restaurant, **called** the waiter and **ordered** pizza for us.  
(*Completed actions*)





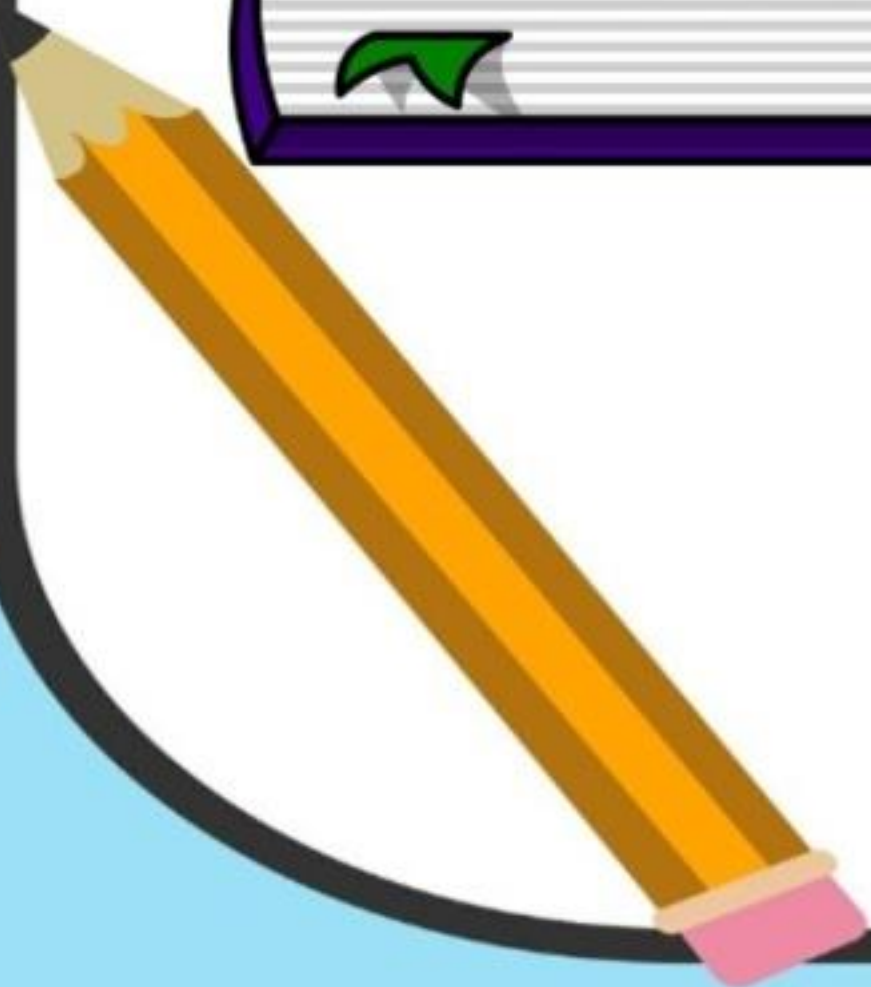
## Tip

We can't talk about states with it due to its continuous form.

***for example...***

I ~~was being~~ was hungry yesterday.

They ~~were understanding~~ understood when the professor showed his presentation.







Go to [Past Simple vs Past Continuous Online Resources Pack page](#) for more exercises.

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