

PAST SIMPLE

I played / wrote
Did I play / write?
I didn't play / write

PAST CONTINUOUS

I was playing / writing
Was I playing / writing?
I wasn't playing / writing

**action which happened
at a definite time in the
past or at a time period
which has finished**

eg. I **went** to Paris last year. / We **had** two classes this morning. (it is now afternoon/evening) / Picasso **painted** Guernica. (Picasso is dead)

**action which was
in progress
at a specific time
in the past**

eg. We **were having** dinner
at 8 o'clock yesterday.

**action which interrupted
another action which was
in progress in the past**

eg. He was walking down the street
when he **ran into** an old friend.

**action which was
in progress in the past
when it was interrupted
by another action**

eg. He **was walking** down the street
when he ran into an old friend.

**actions which happened
one after the other
in the past**

eg. First I **got up**, then I **had**
breakfast.

**two (or more) actions
which were in progress
at the same time
in the past**

eg. Tom **was studying** while his
mother **was cooking**.

**states or habits
of the past**

eg. I **didn't like** spinach when I was
younger. / When I was a child, I
visited my grandparents every
weekend.

**to describe
the atmosphere or setting
in the beginning of a story**

eg. It was a beautiful morning. The
sun **was shining** and the birds **were**
singing. Suddenly, ...