



Past Simple, Past Continuous

Past Simple

V2; did(n't) + V1

Main Story

This is Phyllis. Yesterday, she **fell** down the stairs. That is the main story, so we use Past Simple (V2; did(n't) + V1).



Phyllis **fell** down the stairs.

If you want, you can stop the story there, but that is boring! To make the story more interesting, we add Past Continuous (was/were(n't) + v-ing) for Picture/Context!



The sun *was shining*. Phyllis *was leaving* for work. She *was wearing* her favorite dress. She *was thinking* about her vacation, so she *wasn't paying* attention.

None of these details change the story! The Main Story is still the same. If we continue the story, it might look something like this:

The sun *was shining*. Phyllis *was leaving* for work. She *was wearing* her favorite dress. She *was thinking* about her vacation, so she *wasn't paying* attention. Phyllis **fell** down the stairs. Her dress **tore**, so she **went** inside to put on different clothes.



If we take away the Context/Picture by deleting all of the Past Continuous, the story is still the same:



...BUT IT'S NOT AS DETAILED!



Excercises

Exercise 1 Circle the Past Simple (V2; did(n't) + V1) for the Main Story below.

One day, I was riding the bus to work when I saw my old friend, Tim. He was sitting across from me and reading a book. I said hello and we started talking. We were still talking when the bus stopped in the middle of the road. The driver opened the door and the police got on the bus, and Tim jumped out of the window and ran down the street!

Exercise 2 Read only the Main Story in exercise 1.

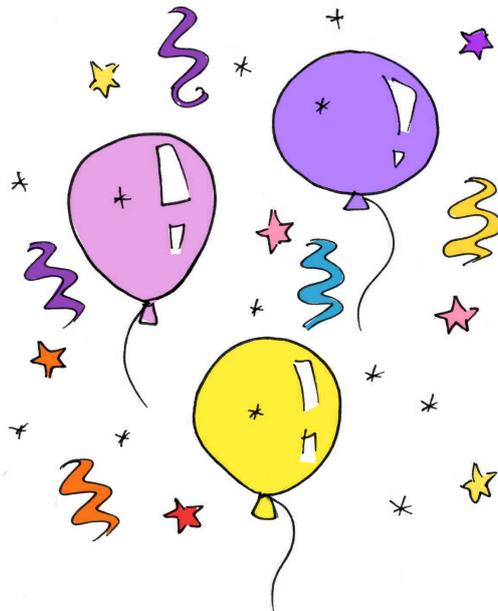


"I'm a criminal now! Did you see the news?"



Exercise 3 Fill in the blanks with Past Simple (V2; did(n't) + V1) for the Main Story or Past Continuous for the Picture/Context.

Last night, I (1)_____ (try) to sleep, but my neighbors (2)_____ (make) a lot of noise. I (3)_____ (get) up from bed, (4)_____ (get) dressed and (5)_____ (walk) outside to talk to my neighbors. I (6)_____ (knock) on their door. Very loud music (7)_____ (play), so they (8)_____ (not hear) me. I (9)_____ (hit) the door with my fists, and finally one of them (10)_____ (open) the door. Lots of people (11)_____ (dance) and (12)_____ (eat) really good food. A DJ(13)_____ (play) music. I (14)_____ (shout) to my neighbor, "It's Tuesday! I have to sleep!" He (15)_____ (smile) and (16)_____ (point) to a sign. The sign (17)_____ (say), "Congratulations to James, who won the \$10 million lottery!" My neighbor (18)_____ (give) me a big pile of money and (19)_____ (tell) me to relax. After that, my neighbors (20)_____ (not work) - they only (21)_____ (have) parties. I (22)_____ (use) that money to find a new place to live!



Exercise 4 Circle the Main Story in the exercise above. Read the story again. It should be the same basic story!

