



Past Simple vs Past Perfect

Grammar lesson, A2



(All the photos have been AI-generated)

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Warm up - listen & complete

The snow **1.** _____ softly outside, and a cold wind was blowing through the trees. Inside, Clara **2.** _____ sitting by the fireplace with a thick book. Her cat, Miso, was **3.** _____ soundly on the rug. Everything was peaceful. Suddenly, while Clara was reaching for her mug of cocoa, the lights **4.** _____ and went out.

The house **5.** _____ pitch black. She felt her way to the kitchen and **6.** _____ some old candles. While she was lighting the third candle, her brother **7.** _____ on the door. He was carrying a board game and a bag of marshmallows. They **8.** _____ the rest of the evening playing by candlelight. They **9.** _____ miss the TV at all; in fact, they were **10.** _____ so hard that they barely noticed the storm outside.



Fill in the blanks

1. While I _____ (walk) to the park, it _____ (start) to rain.
2. The baker _____ (take) the bread out of the oven when the bell _____ (ring).
3. We _____ (not / watch) the movie because we _____ (talk) about our holiday.
4. What _____ you _____ (do) when the earthquake happened?
5. I _____ (see) an old friend while I _____ (wait) for the bus.
6. The sun _____ (shine), so we _____ (decide) to go for a hike.
7. He _____ (lose) his phone while he _____ (jog) in the woods.
8. While they _____ (cook) dinner, the cat _____ (steal) the steak!
9. I _____ (listen) to music, so I _____ (not / hear) the doorbell.
10. She _____ (break) a cup while she _____ (wash) the dishes.
11. At 8 PM last night, I _____ (read) a very funny book.
12. The kids _____ (play) outside when their dad _____ (call) them for lunch.
13. I _____ (find) \$20 in my pocket while I _____ (clean) my room.
14. Why _____ you _____ (cry) when I _____ (enter) the room?
15. It _____ (snow) heavily when we _____ (leave) the cabin.



Let's read!

Read the story and answer the questions.

The Surprise Party

Leo was preparing a surprise for his sister. While he was hanging the decorations, the chair broke. He fell down, but he wasn't hurt. He was still laughing when his sister walked through the door.

1. What was Leo doing when the chair broke?
2. Did Leo get hurt?
3. What was he doing when his sister arrived?
4. Why was he on the floor?
5. Was the sister expecting a party?



Let's read!

Read the story and answer the questions.

The Missing Ring

Sarah was gardening in the backyard. The sun was setting and the birds were singing. Suddenly, she realized her diamond ring was missing. She searched everywhere. Finally, she found it—the crow was holding it in its beak!

1. What was the weather like?
2. What did Sarah realize suddenly?
3. What did she do after she realized the ring was gone?
4. Where was the ring?
5. What was the crow doing with the ring?



Let's read!

Read the story and answer the questions.

The Beach Day

Yesterday, we were lying on the beach. While my brother was swimming, a dolphin appeared. Everyone stood up and started taking photos. The dolphin was jumping in the waves for ten minutes before it swam away.

1. Where were they yesterday?
2. What was the brother doing when the dolphin appeared?
3. How did the other people on the beach react?
4. What was the dolphin doing in the water?
5. How long did the dolphin stay?



Tell me a story!

Use these prompts to tell a short story using Past Simple and Past Continuous.

- The Kitchen Disaster: (cook pasta / smoke alarm / go off / open windows).
- The Lost Dog: (walk in park / see a puppy / follow it / find the owner).
- The Morning Routine: (brush teeth / mirror / crack / feel surprised).
- The Concert: (band / play / favorite song / guitar string / break).
- The Rainstorm: (wait for taxi / rain / start / a stranger / offer / umbrella).



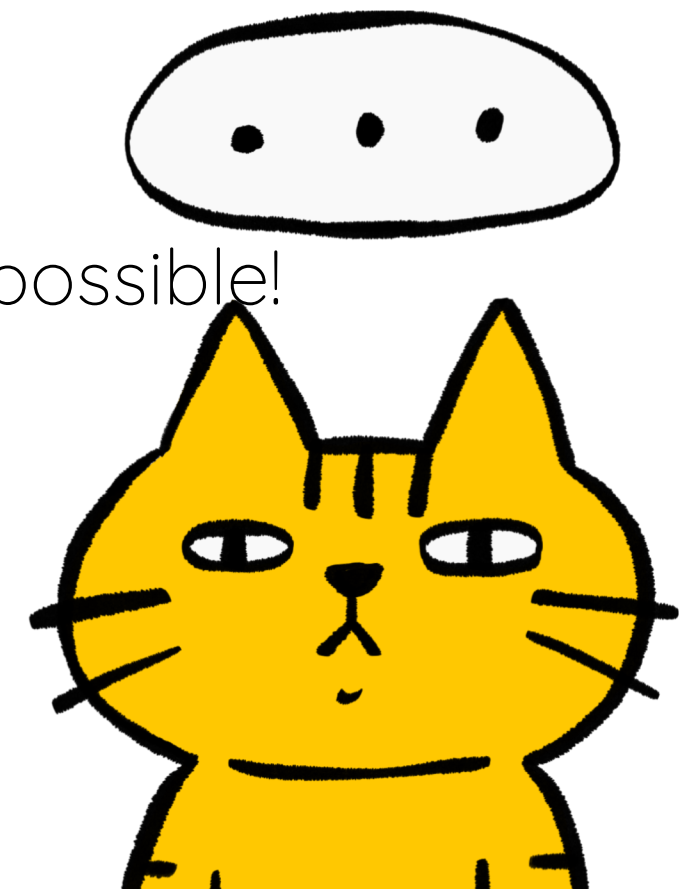
Let's look at the pictures

Task ideas:

1. Look at the photo together and describe what is going on.
2. Show the picture for two minutes and ask the students to remember as much as possible. Then hide the picture and ask your students to tell you what they remember.
3. Turn it into a guessing game - one person describes the action, the other tries to locate the person/animal/thing.

IMPORTANT!

Remember to find as many intercepted actions (Past Continuous + Past Simple) as possible!



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Answer key - listening

The snow **1 was falling** softly outside, and a cold wind was blowing through the trees. Inside, Clara **2 was sitting** by the fireplace with a thick book. Her cat, Miso, was **3 sleeping** soundly on the rug. Everything was peaceful. Suddenly, while Clara was reaching for her mug of cocoa, the lights **4 flickered** and went out.

The house **5 became** pitch black. She **6 found** her way to the kitchen and **6 found** some old candles. While she **7 was lighting** the third candle, her brother **7 knocked** on the door. He **8 was carrying** a board game and a bag of marshmallows. They **8 spent** the rest of the evening playing by candlelight. They **9 didn't** miss the TV at all; in fact, they were **10 laughing** so hard that they barely noticed the storm outside.



Answer key - fill in the blanks

1. While I was walking to the park, it started to rain.
2. The baker was taking the bread out of the oven when the bell rang.
3. We didn't watch the movie because we were talking about our holiday.
4. What were you doing when the earthquake happened?
5. I saw an old friend while I was waiting for the bus.
6. The sun was shining, so we decided to go for a hike.
7. He lost his phone while he was jogging in the woods.
8. While they were cooking dinner, the cat stole the steak!
9. I was listening to music, so I didn't hear the doorbell.
10. She broke a cup while she was washing the dishes.
11. At 8 PM last night, I was reading a very funny book.
12. The kids were playing outside when their dad called them for lunch.
13. I found \$20 in my pocket while I was cleaning my room.
14. Why were you crying when I entered the room?
15. It was snowing heavily when we left the cabin.



Thank you!
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