El empleo es de todos
Mintrabajo

Past simple vs Past Continuous

SENA

GC-F-004v.06

P. S.

Simple structures
Regular & Irregular verbs

P. C.

Compund structures
-ing ending
Verb **to be** in past form

Past Simple

Finished actions in the past, facts and routines

Signal words:

yesterday, the other day, in 2009, when, at that time two days ago, a week ago, a month ago, last night, last week, last month etc..

Past Continuous

Longer actions or"background" actions in the past.

Signal words:

while, when, as long as, at--------(time)

SUBSCRIBE

Use Past Simple for:

- **the short action**
- **actions that you know are finished**
- **when telling a story with events happening one after each other.**
- **past habits or routines**

SUBSCRIBE

Use Past Continuous for:

- to set the scene for a story. It was getting dark and I was running...
- long actions, we don`t know when they finished.
- actions that were happening before, after and during a time in the past. Last week on Tuesday I was working.
- long actions interrupted by another action, or happening along side another action. I was working and talking.



Past Simple

when just mentioning an action

He played soccer.

Past Continuous

when we mention the time or progression the action was\took

At 6:00 he was playing soccer.

Present Continuous is NEVER used with:

state: be, cost, fit, mean

possession: belong, have

feelings: hate, hope, like, love, prefer, regret, want, wish

brain work: believe, know, think, understand

Always use the Past Simple with these!

SUBSCRIBE

Past Simple is used to "interrupt" the longer background action of Past Continuous.

I was working when the earthquake started.





SUBSCRIBE

That`s how to use the Past Simple and Past Continuous separately and together.

Remember that Past Simple is fine alone, but the Past Continuous likes to work with the Past Simple.

SUBSCRIBE



GRACIAS

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