

## THEME 3 HARD TIMES GRAMMAR

### 1. PAST SIMPLE TENSE

We use past simple tense

- to talk about states that happened and finished at a specific time in the past.

*Last week we were in İstanbul and visited İstanbul Toy Museum with my grandmother.*

- to list a series of completed actions in the past. These events follow each other.

*First I finished my homework and then I went out to get some fresh air.*

- to describe habits which stopped in the past.

*She worked part-time after school when she was younger.*

#### Affirmative

I / He / She / It watched a film yesterday.

We / You / They heard a terrible noise last night.

#### Negative

I / He / She / It didn't watch a film yesterday.

We / You / They didn't hear a terrible noise last night.

#### Interrogative

Did I / he / she / it watch a film yesterday?

Did we / you / they hear a terrible noise last night?

### 2. PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

We use the past continuous

- to state an action happening at a particular time in the past.

*We were watching an important match on TV at this time yesterday.*

- to talk about two events in progress at the same time in the past.

*While my mother was watching a soap opera on TV, I was trying to finish my school project.*

- to express a past action in progress interrupted by another past action.

*When the electricity went off, I was vacuuming the living room.*

- to describe the atmosphere at a particular time in the past.

*As I was passing through the park, the children were playing and their mothers were chatting.*

#### Affirmative

**Subject was / were Verb (+ing)**

I / He / She / It was watching a film when you called me.

We / You / They were watching a film when you called me.

#### Negative

**Subject was not (wasn't) were not (weren't) Verb (+ing)**

I / He / She / It wasn't watching a film when you called me.

We / You / They weren't watching a film when you called me.

#### Interrogative

**Was / Were Subject Verb (+ing)**

Was I / he / she / it watching a film when you called me?

Were we / you / they watching a film when you called me.

### 3. PAST SIMPLE AND PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

- We often use the simple past tense and the past continuous tense together in a sentence.
- We use the past continuous tense for the longer, unfinished action and the simple past tense for the shorter, interrupting action.
- We use **when, while, as, just as** to join the sentences.

when = at that time

while / as = during that time

#### **While / as + past continuous, past simple**

While I was trying to put my baby to sleep, the doorbell rang.

As I was walking along the street, it suddenly started to rain.

Someone knocked the door while the teacher was checking our exam papers.

#### **When + past simple, past continuous**

When I saw Sue, I was waiting for the bus.

- We also use the past continuous with “**while**” to talk about two actions in progress at the same time in the past.

My mother was chopping the meat while I was peeling the potatoes.

- We use the simple past tense with “**when**” to say that one thing happened after another.

When my father arrived, we had our dinner. (First my father arrived and then we started to have our dinner).

**Attention:** We don't use the past continuous tense with stative verbs (know, want, love etc...)

*They were good friends. They knew each other well.*

**Attention:** “**Just as**” has similar meaning with **while** and **as**, but if the interrupting, shorter event happens right after the longer one, we prefer **just as** instead of **as** or **while**.

*Just as I was leaving home, I realised that I had forgotten my car key.*

### 4. USED TO

We use “used to”

- to talk about our past habits.

*Sharon used to spend a lot of money on clothes but these days she doesn't.*

- for things that were true in the past but are not true anymore.

*This building used to be a bookstore in the past but now it is a florist's.*

#### **Affirmative**

**Subject + Used to + Verb**

I / He / She / It / We / You / They used to be shy in the past.

#### **Negative**

**Subject + Did not use to + Verb**

I / He / She / It / We / You / They didn't use to be shy in the past.

#### **Interrogative**

**Did + Subject + Use to + Verb**

Did I / he / she / it / we / you / they use to be shy in the past?