

Past Simple vs Past Continuous

Studying Form – Presentation

Start by teaching statement forms, and work your way up from there. From statements to yes/no questions, there is only inversion of the subject and have/has. From yes/no questions to information questions, there is only the addition of a question word.

Past Continuous Statements

Subject	Was/There	Present Participle (Verb + ing)
You / We / They	were	going, doing, seeing, eating, drinking, falling, walking, watching, etc.
I / He / She / It	was	

Past Simple Statements

Subject	Regular Verb or...	Irregular Verb
I / You / We / They / He / She / It	learned, walked, hiccupped, cried, waited, bathed, etc.	saw, went, did, fought, drew, drank, ate, fell, grew, etc.

Past Continuous Yes/No Statements

Was/There	Subject	Present Participle (Verb + ing)
Were	you / we / they	going, doing, seeing, eating, drinking, falling, walking, watching, etc.
Was	I / he / she / it	

Past Simple Yes/No Questions

Do / Be	Subject	Main Verb in Base Form
Did	I / you / we / they / he / she / it	learn, see, fall, eat, cry, wait, grow, etc.

Past Continuous Information (Wh-) Questions

Question Word	Was / Were	Subject	Present Participle (Verb + ing)
Who Where What When Why How	were	you / we / they	going, doing, seeing, eating, drinking, falling, walking, watching, etc.
	was	I / he / she / it	

*Note – If the question is about the subject – that is, if the subject is unknown – use “who” or “what” as the question word and omit the subject. No other changes must be made.

Past Simple Information (Wh-) Questions

Question Word	Do / Be	Subject	Main Verb in Base Form
Who Where What When Why How	did	I / you / we / they / he / she / it	learn, see, fall, eat, cry, wait, grow, etc.