

Past Simple



Actions at a point in the past

E.g. They quarrelled yesterday.



Repeated actions in the past

E.g. They were always quarrelling.



Habitual actions in the past

E.g. I went swimming every day when I was 12.



Temporary actions in the past

E.g. I was swimming all yesterday morning.



On-going state in the past (stative verbs)

E.g. She was in Year 3 five years ago.



On-going past movements (dynamic verbs)

E.g. We were chatting when the teacher arrived.

Politeness

E.g. I wondered if you could tell me where the library is.



Politeness

E.g. I was wondering whether you could tell me where the library is.



Hypothesis / Unreal conditions

E.g. If I were a millionaire, I would quit the job.



Reporting background of events

E.g. She said Jimmy was sleeping when he was woken up by some raucous noise.