***CONVERSATION CLUB***

**LESSON 11**

**Topic: “Past Actions”**

**Objective:** Students will practice how to talk about interrupted actions in the past, through a fill-in-the-blanks exercise and by practicing some authentic conversations using the Simple Past vs Past Continuous Tenses.

**Warm-up:** Make a list of at least 10 activities you did yesterday, including home, work and free time activities. Use the back of this sheet to do so.

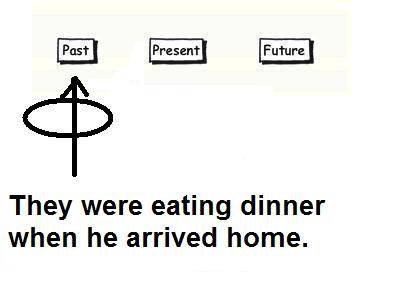
**Past Tenses: Usage and Time Expressions**

**Simple Past**

**Usage:** It is used for finished actions or situations that began and ended before now.  **Time Expressions:** yesterday, last, ago, past dates and past events.

**Past Continuous:**

**Usage:** This tense describes actions that were in progress in the past. It uses the helping verb "was" with the pronouns I / He / She / It, and "were" with the pronouns You / We / They. Then, –ing is added to the base form of the verb. **Time Expressions:** when and while.



**Simple Past vs Past Continuous (Interrupted Actions):**

The **past continuous tense** is most commonly used when two past actions--one interrupting the other and one longer than the other--happened at the same time. In this situation, the **simple past tense** is used for the shorter action and the **past continuous tense** is used for the longer action. The connecting words **while** and **when** are usually used in order to make the tense differences clear: In general, the word **'when'** is used for **shorter time periods**, but '**while'** is used for **longer continuous time periods.**

**For example:**

**When** I was eating lunch, I saw a band playing in the park. (It seems like I saw the band and did some other things too)  
**While** I was eating lunch, I saw a band playing in the park. (I just saw the band the whole time. I didn't do anything else.)

**Examples:**

1.Bob and Carol **were living** in Chicago when  
their first child **was born**. / When Bob and Carol's first child **was born**, they **were living** in Chicago.

2.Julia **was studying** in California when she  
**met** her husband. / When Julia **met** her husband, she **was studying** in California.

3.Someone **called** me while I **was taking** a shower. /  
While I **was taking** a shower,someone **called** me.

4.Bob and Carol's first child **was born**  
while they **were living** in Chicago./ While Bob and Carol **were living** in Chicago, their first child **was born**.

5.Julia **met** her husband while she **was studying**  
in California. / While Julia **was studying** in California, she **met** her husband.

**Activity 1:** **Fill-in-the-blanks with the Simple Past and the Past Continuous Tense for interrupted actions. Use the verbs in parentheses in the correct form and when or while.**

1) Claudia (learn) \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be a chef when she (win) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a national recipe

contest.

2) Aaron (enjoy) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the old car show so much, he (do, not, remember)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that he had an appointment.

3) The band members (play) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a concert when Adrienne's clarinet

(squeak) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. She (feel) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ embarrassed.

4) The Apollo 13 astronauts (prepare) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to land on the moon

when they (discover) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a problem with the spaceship. Unfortunately,

they(do, not, land) \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5) Caroline (try) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to find a job in Portland when she (hear)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_about a great opportunity in Orlando.

6) You (sail) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ near Barbados when your ship (strike) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a sand bar; you (do, not, like) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ waiting for help to come.

7) Cody and Matthew (sit) \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on a rocky ledge when a snake

(crawl)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of its hole nearby. They (do, not, see) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it until it (get) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ very close to them.

8) Sue (take) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her medicine just as the doctor (order)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he (decide) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to add another drug to her plan.

9) The Johnsons (tour) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Mediterranean when they (call) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

us last November. They (do, not, want) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to come home.

10) I (look) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for information about my ancestors when I (find) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that some of

them (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aboard the Mayflower.

**Activity 2: Look at the dialogs below. Practice them with a partner.**

**1. Betsy:** I telephoned you yesterday afternoon but you didn't answer? Where were you?  
**Brian:** I was in another room when you called. I didn't hear the phone ringing until it was too late. **Betsy:** What were you working on?   
**Brian:** I was photocopying a report that I needed to send to a client. What were you doing when you telephoned? **Betsy:** I was looking for Tom and couldn't find him. Do you know where he was?  
**Brian:** Tom was driving to a meeting.

**2. Tim:** Did you hear about the storm yesterday? **Bill:** I sure did. Actually, I was eating dinner in a restaurant when the blizzard hit. **Tim:** Really? Weren’t you scared? **Bill:** Of course, I was. Some friends of mine were walking when the storm started. Others were riding their bikes home. **Tim:** How did you get home? **Bill:** I didn’t go home. I had to stay in the restaurant. **Tim**: Really? **Bill:** Yeah. So I ate dinner twice. **Tim:** Were you still eating dinner when the storm stopped? **Bill:** No, I wasn´t eating anymore. Actually, by that time, I was sleeping over the dinner table. **Tim:** Gosh!

**Activity 3: Choose 1 of the dialogs from activity 2, memorize it and, finally, replace the information underlined with another of the same kind.**

**Activity 4: Using the activities from the list you wrote at the beginning of the class; make at least 3 examples using the Simple Past and the Past Continuous Tense for interrupted actions. You can use other activities in addition, but they should be real.**

**Example:** perform a surgery – cell phone rang

*1. I was performing a surgery last Monday, when my cell phone rang.*

**Helped by:** <http://www.eslcafe.com/grammar/simple_past_tense04.html> <http://www.englishspark.com/en/students/436-when-vs-while> <http://www.eslcafe.com/grammar/past_continuous_tense02.html> <http://www.englishexercises.org/makeagame/viewgame.asp?id=7192>

Regular Verbs

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **base** |  | **-s form** |  | **past** |  | **past participle** |  | **-ing form** |  | **notes** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| call |  | calls |  | called |  | called |  | calling |  |  |
| clean |  | cleans |  | cleaned |  | cleaned |  | cleaning |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| look |  | looks |  | looked |  | looked |  | looking |  | 1 |
| talk |  | talks |  | talked |  | talked |  | talking |  | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| end |  | ends |  | ended |  | ended |  | ending |  | 2 |
| wait |  | waits |  | waited |  | waited |  | waiting |  | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| kiss |  | kisses |  | kissed |  | kissed |  | kissing |  | 3 |
| wash |  | washes |  | washed |  | washed |  | washing |  | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| live |  | lives |  | lived |  | lived |  | living |  | 4 |
| love |  | loves |  | loved |  | loved |  | loving |  | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| beg |  | begs |  | begged |  | begged |  | begging |  | 5 |
| sin |  | sins |  | sinned |  | sinned |  | sinning |  | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| play |  | plays |  | played |  | played |  | playing |  |  |
| stay |  | stays |  | stayed |  | stayed |  | staying |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| cry |  | cries |  | cried |  | cried |  | crying |  | 6 |
|  |  | studies |  | studied |  | studied |  | studying |  | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| die |  | dies |  | died |  | died |  | dying |  |  |
| tie |  | ties |  | tied |  | tied |  | tying |  |  |

Notes :

1. Pronunciation differences in past/past participle after /p, s, k, f/ sounds

2. Pronunciation differences in past/past participle after /t, d/ sounds

3. Spelling and pronunciation differences in -s form after /s, sh, ch, z/ sounds

4. Dropping of "silent e" with -ing endings

5. Doubled consonants after "short" vowel sounds

6. Spelling differences when "y" is preceded by a consonant

Irregular Verbs

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **base** |  | **-s form** |  | **past** |  | **past participle** |  | **-ing form** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| cut |  | cuts |  | cut |  | cut |  | cutting |
| fit |  | fits |  | fit |  | fit |  | fitting |
| hit |  | hits |  | hit |  | hit |  | hitting |
| let |  | lets |  | let |  | let |  | letting |
| put |  | puts |  | put |  | put |  | putting |
| quit |  | quits |  | quit |  | quit |  | quitting |
| set |  | sets |  | set |  | set |  | setting |
| shut |  | shuts |  | shut |  | shut |  | shutting |
| split |  | splits |  | split |  | split |  | splitting |
| upset |  | upsets |  | upset |  | upset |  | upsetting |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| burst |  | bursts |  | burst |  | burst |  | bursting |
| cast |  | casts |  | cast |  | cast |  | casting |
| cost |  | costs |  | cost |  | cost |  | costing\* |
| hurt |  | hurts |  | hurt |  | hurt |  | hurting |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| spread |  | spreads |  | spread |  | spread |  | spreading |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| knit |  | knits |  | knit/knitted |  | knit/knitted |  | knitting |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| sit |  | sits |  | sat |  | sat |  | sitting |
| spit |  | spits |  | spat/spit |  | spat/spit |  | spitting |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| begin |  | begins |  | began |  | begun |  | beginning |
| swim |  | swims |  | swam |  | swum |  | swimming |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ring |  | rings |  | rang |  | rung |  | ringing |
| sing |  | sings |  | sang |  | sung |  | singing |
| spring |  | springs |  | sprang |  | sprung |  | springing |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| cling |  | clings |  | clung |  | clung |  | clinging |
| fling |  | flings |  | flung |  | flung |  | flinging |
| sling |  | slings |  | slung |  | slung |  | slinging |
| sting |  | stings |  | stung |  | stung |  | stinging |
| swing |  | swings |  | swung |  | swung |  | swinging |
| wring |  | wrings |  | wrung |  | wrung |  | wringing |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hang |  | hangs |  | hung/hanged\*\* |  | hung/hanged |  | hanging |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| drink |  | drinks |  | drank |  | drunk |  | sinking |
| shrink |  | shrinks |  | shrank |  | shrunk |  | shrinking |
| stink |  | stinks |  | stank |  | stunk |  | stinking |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| think |  | thinks |  | thought |  | thought |  | thinking |
| bring |  | brings |  | brought |  | brought |  | bringing |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| buy |  | buys |  | bought |  | bought |  | buying |
| seek |  | seeks |  | sought |  | sought |  | seeking |
| fight |  | fights |  | fought |  | fought |  | fighting |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| catch |  | catches |  | caught |  | caught |  | catching |
| teach |  | teaches |  | taught |  | taught |  | teaching |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| creep |  | creeps |  | crept |  | crept |  | creeping |
| keep |  | keeps |  | kept |  | kept |  | keeping |
| sleep |  | sleeps |  | slept |  | slept |  | sleeping |
| sweep |  | sweeps |  | swept |  | swept |  | sweeping |
| weep |  | weeps |  | wept |  | wept |  | weeping |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| bleed |  | bleeds |  | bled |  | bled |  | bleeding |
| breed |  | breeds |  | bred |  | bred |  | breeding |
| feed |  | feeds |  | fed |  | fed |  | feeding |
| flee |  | flees |  | fled |  | fled |  | fleeing |
| lead |  | leads |  | led |  | led |  | leading |
| speed |  | speeds |  | sped/speeded |  | sped/speeded |  | speeding |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| meet |  | meets |  | met |  | met |  | meeting |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| bend |  | bends |  | bent |  | bent |  | bending |
| lend |  | lends |  | lent |  | lent |  | lending |
| send |  | sends |  | sent |  | sent |  | sending |
| spend |  | spends |  | spent |  | spent |  | spending |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| deal |  | deals |  | dealt |  | dealt |  | dealing |
| feel |  | feels |  | felt |  | felt |  | feeling |
| kneel |  | kneels |  | knelt |  | knelt |  | kneeling |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| dream |  | dreams |  | dreamt/dreamed |  | dreamt/dreamed |  | dreaming |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| mean |  | means |  | meant |  | meant |  | meaning |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| spill |  | spills |  | spilt/spilled |  | spilt/spilled |  | spilling |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| build |  | builds |  | built |  | built |  | building |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| burn |  | burns |  | burnt/burned |  | burnt/burned |  | burning |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hold |  | holds |  | held |  | held |  | holding |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| sell |  | sells |  | sold |  | sold |  | selling |
| tell |  | tells |  | told |  | told |  | telling |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| find |  | finds |  | found |  | found |  | finding |
| grind |  | grinds |  | ground |  | ground |  | grinding |
| wind |  | winds |  | wound |  | wound |  | winding |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| break |  | breaks |  | broke |  | broken |  | breaking |
| choose |  | chooses |  | chose |  | chosen |  | choosing |
| freeze |  | freezes |  | froze |  | frozen |  | freezing |
| speak |  | speaks |  | spoke |  | spoken |  | speaking |
| steal |  | steals |  | stole |  | stolen |  | stealing |
| wake |  | wakes |  | woke |  | woken |  | waking |
| weave |  | weaves |  | wove |  | woven |  | weaving |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| arise |  | arises |  | arose |  | arisen |  | arising |
| drive |  | drives |  | drove |  | driven |  | driving |
| ride |  | rides |  | rode |  | ridden |  | riding |
| rise |  | rises |  | rose |  | risen |  | rising |
| write |  | writes |  | wrote |  | written |  | writing |