

4

Past simple vs Past continuous – used to/would

11 Put a (✓) next to the sentences where *used to* + main verb can replace the *past simple*.

- Hayley **read** a lot of books when she was a child. ✓ (*used to read*)
- An avalanche **occurred** in the Alps last night.
- They **went** skiing every winter when they were younger.
- The river **flooded** in 2011.
- I **emailed** Ben three times last week.
- We **had** a caravan ten years ago.

12 Three years ago, Georgina was at school. Now she goes to college. Use the phrases to write and answer questions about her, as in the example.

NOW

- live with friends
- drive a car
- have a laptop
- play piano in free time
- work in a shop at the weekends



THEN

- live with parents
- ride a bike
- have a desktop computer
- play computer games in free time
- go shopping at the weekends

- Did Georgina use to live with her friends? No, she didn't. She used to live with her parents.*
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13 Choose the correct item.

- Emma **was tidying/tidied** the house while her husband **fixed/was fixing** the car.
- We **didn't still do/weren't still doing** our test when the fire alarm **went off/was going off**.
- It was a lovely day. The sun **shone/was shining** and we **sat/were sitting** in the garden.
- Did you live/Were you living** in Spain when you were a child?
- Frank **kissed/was kissing** his children goodnight, **was closing/closed** the bedroom door and **went/was going** downstairs.
- They **didn't travel/weren't travelling** abroad last summer.

14 Fill in the gaps using the verb in brackets in the *past simple* or the *past continuous*.

- A: Who *was playing* (play) music at midnight last night?
B: It was Alex. He (wake) me up!
- A: (you/hear) the sirens yesterday evening?
B: Yes, I (take) the rubbish out at about 7:30 when I (notice) a police car arrive at the Masons' house.
- A: I (not/see) Alison and Jo in Science class this morning. Do you know where they are?
B: Yes, Jo (call) me five minutes ago. They (come) to college on the 93 bus when the car in front of them (crash). When I (speak) to Jo, they (drive) to the police station to describe what happened.
- A: (Steve/do) his homework while you (make) dinner?
B: No, he (help) me. He (do) his homework afterwards.
- A: Why (you/be) late for class today?
B: Well, I (leave) home at 8:15, but I (forget) my phone, so I (go) back to get it and I (miss) my bus.