



## Exploring Grammar (Units 4 – 5)

### Past simple – Past continuous – used to – would

**1** a) Read the email below. Circle the verbs in the *past simple* and underline the verbs in the *past continuous*. Then, match the verbs with their uses below.

- a actions that happened immediately one after the other
- b an action which was in progress when another action interrupted it
- c to describe the atmosphere, setting, etc and to give background information to a story
- d an action that happened at a definite time (stated or implied) in the past
- e an action that was in progress at a stated time in the past (we don't mention when the action started and finished)
- f two or more simultaneous actions in the past

**To:** lucy@mail.co.uk  
**From:** amy98@server.co.uk  
**Subject:** Avalanche!  
**Received:** 10th January

Hi Lucy!

How are you? Did you hear what happened to me in the winter holidays? Three weeks ago, I travelled to the French Alps with my college friends, Julie and Sarah. We rented a ski chalet high up in the mountains where Julie used to stay when she was a child. It was beautiful, but the day after we arrived the weather was really bad. Snow was falling heavily all day and an icy wind was blowing, so we didn't go outside.

At about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, Sarah was making hot chocolate in the kitchen. I was reading in the living room while Julie was watching TV. Suddenly, the room went dark and half the roof collapsed! It was an avalanche!

At first, Julie and I panicked, but then we calmed down and went into the kitchen with Sarah, where it was safer. Our mobile phones didn't have any signal, so we just tried to keep warm and waited for help. Eventually, hours later, we were talking when we heard voices outside. The rescue team dug us out and took us to the hospital for checks. We were so happy to be safe at last! I hope you had a more relaxing winter holiday than I did!

Love,  
 Amy

b) Which time expressions do we use with the *past simple* and the *past continuous*?

c) Find an example of *used to* in the email. When do we use *used to*? When can we use *would*?

**2** Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*.

- 1 Gary ..... (**whistle**) while he ..... (**wash**) the car.
- 2 Antonio Canova was an Italian artist who ..... (**create**) many beautiful sculptures.
- 3 At 6:30 yesterday evening, I ..... (**still/wait**) for the bus.
- 4 Jake ..... (**move**) to Venice in 2013.
- 5 We ..... (**get**) home, ..... (**make**) some popcorn and ..... (**sit**) down to watch *Brave* on television.
- 6 Annie ..... (**write**) a text message when she ..... (**drop**) her phone.

**3** Choose the correct item.

- 1 Terry didn't **use/used** to like rock music.
- 2 I **used to/would** have a mountain bike.
- 3 Did you **use to visit/visit** France in 2012?
- 4 When we were children, we **would/use to** camp by the lake all summer.
- 5 Did Ellen and Claire **used/use** to live in the USA?
- 6 Brian **didn't go/didn't use to go** swimming last week.

### Subject/Object questions

**4** Look at the two underlined questions in the dialogue below. Which is the *subject question* and which is the *object question*? How are *subject* and *object questions* different?

- A: Hi, Ben. How are you?  
 B: Oh, hi, Rob! I'm fine. I just got back from an amazing concert!  
 A: Really? Who did you see?  
 B: We saw Maroon 5.  
 A: Who went with you?  
 B: Josh and Anna. They loved it too.