

UNIT 2 : Past Continuous
Past simple vs past continuous
Past perfect

Adapted from A. Stoker's "Dracula".

After I **had arrived** at the castle, the Count Dracula **helped** me with my bags and **showed** me my room. Then we **went** to the dining room where my host **had laid** out a delicious meal. The Count **said** that he **had** already **eaten** so he **did not eat** with me.

We **spoke** about my journey and while we **were talking** I **noticed** the Count had rather unusual features: his eyebrows and hair were thick and bushy, his teeth were long and sharp and his ears were pointy.

But the strangest thing happened the day after!

While I **was shaving** before breakfast I **heard** the Count's voice behind me. "Good morning!" he said. I greeted him back and continued shaving but, as I **was looking** at the mirror, I **realized** that the Count had no reflection! I was so surprised that I cut myself and my chin began to bleed.

When the Count saw the blood his eyes filled with anger and he tried to grab my throat!

Comprehension activity.

- 1) What did The Count Dracula do as soon as the author arrived at his castle?
- 2) Why didn't the Count eat with the author?
- 3) What unusual features did the Count Dracula have?
- 4) What did the author notice while he was shaving?
- 5) What happened when the author cut himself?

Vocabulary- Find the words in the text with these meanings.

- 1)parts of a human face.
- 2)to remove hair from face using a razor .
- 3)to loose blood as a result of injury .
- 4)to pick something up suddenly and roughly.
- 5)strong feeling that comes when someone sees injustice or has been insulted.

Read the text again and decide if the following sentences are true or false. Write T or F. Correct the false sentences.

- 1)___ The Count and the author had lunch together as soon as the author arrived.
- 2)___ While eating, they talked about Dracula's family.
- 3)___ Dracula's hair was thin and straight.
- 4)___ Dracula went to the author's room while the author was getting ready for breakfast.
- 5)___ The author couldn't see Dracula's image in the mirror.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

PAST CONTINUOUS		
PAST of TO BE	+	- ING form of the verb
WAS / WERE		

We use the past continuous to say that an action was in progress at a particular time or period of time in the past .

Ex: I **was having** dinner at 6 yesterday.

Sometimes , we use the past continuous together with the past simple: the past continuous refers to an action which was in progress when something else happened.

Ex: While I **was shaving** before breakfast I **heard** the Count's voice behind me.
I **was having** breakfast when John **came**.

Sometimes, two actions were happening at the same time in the past.

Ex: I **was watching** TV while my mother **was cooking**.

REMEMBER.

We do not normally use some verbs in the past continuous because these verbs aren't action verbs, These verbs include: believe, belong, be, have(possess), depend, hate,

know, like, love, mean, need, prefer, realize, suppose, want, wish, understand, cost, feel.

Exercise 1.

Complete the following questions using the past continuous (use What/ Where/ Why if necessary).

- 1).... you/ livein 2001? In Paris
- 2)you/ drive fastwhen I met you yesterday? Because I was in a hurry.
- 3)you/ doyesterday at 10 in the evening? I was in bed.
- 4)it/ rainwhen you got up this morning? No, it was sunny.
- 5)he/ weara suit at the party last night? No, just a T-shirt and jeans.

Exercise 2.

Join the following sentences using the past simple and the past continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 1) Jane (look out of) the window / she (see) her boyfriend.
- 2) Dr Brown (examine) his patients/ the nurse (call) him.
- 3) Mark (have) an accident / he (drive).
- 4) She (lose) her bag / she (go) to work.
- 5) The train (leave) he (arrive) at the station.

PAST PERFECT		
Past of TO HAVE	+	Past participle of the verb
HAD		regular verbs + -ED irregular verbs 3 rd form

The past perfect is often used when we are relating two events which happened in the past and we want to point out that one happened before the other.

Ex: We went to the dining room where my host had laid out a delicious meal.
The Count had already eaten so he did not eat with me.

Exercise 1.

Fill in the gaps with the past perfect of the verbs in brackets.

- 1) When I arrived at school this morning , the lessons(start).
- 2) My mother(tidy) the house before she went shopping.
- 3) We were late for the concert because we(forget) our tickets at home.

- 4) They(not have) lunch when we arrived.
- 5) She didn't pass her exam because she.....(study) much.

Exercise 2.

Join the following sentences using the past perfect and the words in brackets.

- 1) I did my homework / I watched TV (after).
- 2) They bought a big house / They won the lottery (because).
- 3) I left home this morning / it started raining (by the time).
- 4) She bought the ticket / she got on the train (after).
- 5) Alan felt sick / he ate too much (because).