



When I arrived, the party had already started and everyone was laughing and talking.

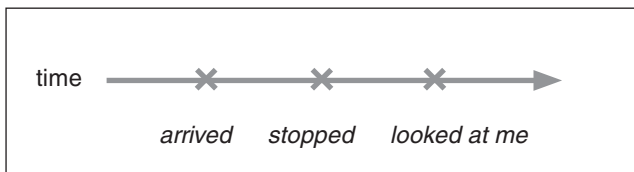
As I walked in, they all stopped talking and looked at me.

## Presentation

### Past simple

Use the past simple to talk about the sequence of the main events in a story:

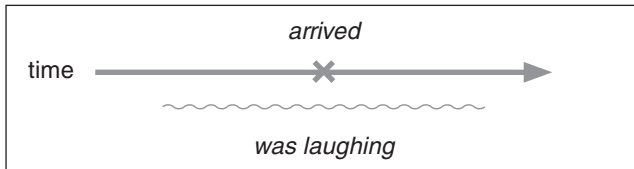
*When I arrived, they all **stopped** and **looked** at me.*



### Past continuous

Use the past continuous with the past simple to explain that two actions happened at the same time. The action in the past continuous was in progress at the time the action in the past simple happened:

*When I **arrived**, everyone **was laughing**.*



The past simple action may interrupt the longer past continuous action:

*Everybody **was laughing and talking** when the door **burst open**. Suddenly they all **stopped talking and turned** around to look at the door.*

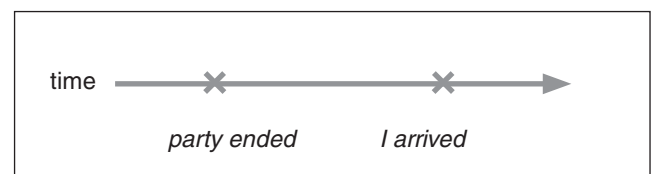
You don't usually use stative verbs in the past continuous.

Say *I **knew** the waiter very well.* (don't say *I ~~was knowing~~ the waiter very well.*)

### Past perfect simple

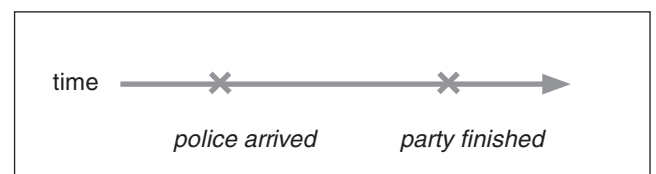
You use the past perfect simple to show that something happened before the main event:

*When I **arrived**, the party **had already ended**.*

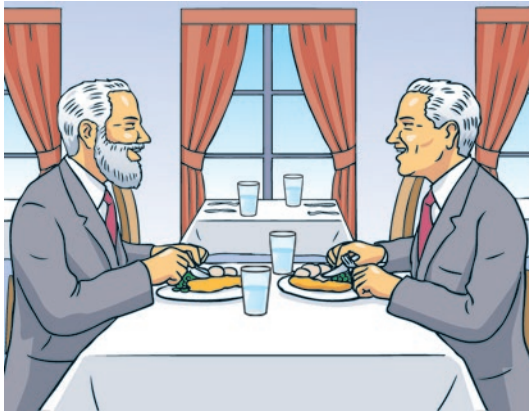


If you use the past simple, it shows that one action happened after the other:

*When the police **arrived**, the party **ended**.*



**1 Put 1–8 in the correct order to complete the story.**



I'd been ...

- 1 been years since I'd last seen my twin brother. ....
- 2 walked over to me. It was Tom. He .....
- 3 got to the restaurant, I thought he hadn't .....
- 4 looked so much older than when I'd last .....
- 5 arrived yet. Then a man with a long beard .....
- 6 seen him. I was so happy. It'd .....
- 7 seen him for more than ten years. When I first .....
- 8 looking forward to seeing Tom again. I hadn't .....

**2 Circle the correct form of the verbs.**

- 1 He <sup>1</sup>*had climbed* / *was climbing* a tree when the accident <sup>2</sup>*was happening* / *happened*. He <sup>3</sup>*had come* / *was coming* down when he <sup>4</sup>*was falling* / *fell* and <sup>5</sup>*was breaking* / *broke* his leg.
- 2 We <sup>6</sup>*had been* / *were* incredibly late. The party <sup>7</sup>*had ended* / *ended* by the time we <sup>8</sup>*had got* / *got* there. The music <sup>9</sup>*had stopped* / *was stopping* and all the guests <sup>10</sup>*got* / *were getting* ready to go. We <sup>11</sup>*had explained* / *explained* that our car <sup>12</sup>*had broken* / *was breaking* down. Steff <sup>13</sup>*had already put* / *already put* her coat on, but she <sup>14</sup>*was inviting* / *invited* us to her house.
- 3 I had just gotten into bed when I <sup>15</sup>*heard* / *was hearing* a loud noise. I <sup>16</sup>*had run* / *ran* to the window to see what <sup>17</sup>*was happening* / *happened*. A dog <sup>18</sup>*had knocked* / *was knocking* over our trash can. It <sup>19</sup>*was eating* / *ate* the food that <sup>20</sup>*had fallen* / *was falling* onto the sidewalk.

**3 Complete the dialogue using the past simple, past continuous, or past perfect simple.**

- A: <sup>1</sup>..... Did ..... you ..... *hear* ..... (hear) about the party last night?
- B: No, what party?
- A: The one at Hugh's house. You remember, the one for his wife's 30th birthday.
- B: Oh yes, I remember. So, what <sup>2</sup>..... (happen)?
- A: Well, everyone <sup>3</sup>..... (have) a great time. There was a band and a DJ...
- B: Sounds just like Hugh!

- A: Yeah, but while the band <sup>4</sup>..... (play), some thieves <sup>5</sup>..... (break) into the house.
- B: No! Really?
- A: Yes! Hugh <sup>6</sup>..... (not find out) until a few hours after it had happened. Everybody <sup>7</sup>..... (already/leave).
- B: What <sup>8</sup>..... they ..... (take)?
- A: Everything: the TV, the stereo, the computer ...
- B: Oh, no! Poor Hugh!