

## B Grammar

### 1 Past simple

+	verb + <i>-ed</i> *	<i>I wanted it.</i>
-	<i>did not</i> + verb	<i>I didn't want it.</i>
?	<i>did ...</i> + verb?	<i>What did you want?</i>

\*Regular verbs add *-ed* or *-d* to the verb:

*want* → *wanted*    *hope* → *hoped*

Many common verbs are irregular (➤ See Web page: Irregular verbs):

*think* → *thought*    *make* → *made*

To *be* is irregular:

*am/is (not)* → *was (not)*;    *are (not)* → *were (not)*

We use the past simple:

- for completed actions and events in the past:  
*We had an exam on Thursday.*  
*We caught the coach.*
- for a sequence of actions or events:  
*I went round the shops, then I went to the cinema.*
- for permanent or long-term situations in the past:  
*I really enjoyed myself when I was a teenager.*
- for repeated events:  
*Jack's grandmother went to lots of concerts.*  
*She always asked for an autograph when she met someone famous.*

➤ See also Unit 3 for further uses of the past simple.

### 2 Past continuous

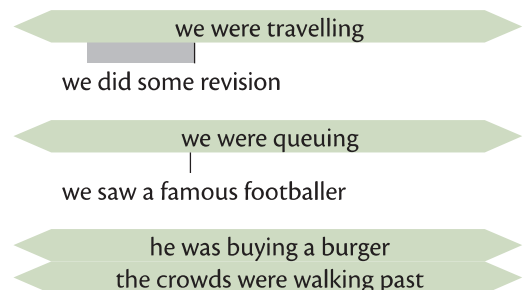
+	<i>was/were</i> + verb + <i>-ing</i>	<i>They were waiting.</i>
-	<i>was/were not</i> + verb + <i>-ing</i>	<i>She wasn't waiting.</i>
?	<i>was/were ...</i> + verb + <i>-ing</i> ?	<i>Were you waiting?</i>

We use the past continuous:

- for an activity beginning before a past action and continuing until or after it. The action is usually in the past simple:  
*We did some revision while we were travelling.*  
*When we were queuing for the cinema, we saw a famous footballer.*
- for two things happening at the same time:  
*He was buying a burger and all the crowds were walking past.*
- for repeated events, with a word like *always* or *continually*, especially if the speaker is criticising the activity:  
*She was always worrying about her homework.* (= Jack's grandmother thinks she worried too much.)
- for unfulfilled plans, with verbs like *hope*, *plan*, etc.:  
*I was hoping to find a new jacket.* (= but I didn't find one)

⚠ State verbs are nearly always used in the past simple, not the past continuous (➤ see Unit 1, B3):

*I didn't know him.* (not ~~*I wasn't knowing him*~~)



## 2 Past tenses

### 3 *used to* + verb and *would* + verb

+	<i>used to</i> + verb	He <b><i>used to read</i></b> comics.
-	<i>did not use to</i> + verb	We <b><i>didn't use to read</i></b> comics.
?	<i>did ... use to</i> + verb?	<b><i>Did you use to read</i></b> comics?

+	<i>would</i> + verb	He <b><i>would read</i></b> comics.
-	<i>would not</i> + verb	We <b><i>wouldn't read</i></b> comics.
?	<i>would ...</i> + verb?	<b><i>Would you read</i></b> comics?

We use *used to* and *would* to talk about past habits when we are emphasising that they are no longer true:

***I used to collect*** all the autographs of film stars when I was a teenager. (= she doesn't do this now)

***I would go up to town on my own.*** (= she doesn't do this now)

*Used to* can describe actions and states, but *would* can only describe actions:

All the teenagers ***used to / would scream*** at pop concerts.

They ***used to be*** crazy about the Beatles. (~~not *would be* crazy~~)

▲ Notice the position of frequency adverbs (➤ see Unit 8) with *used to*:

***I often used to study*** on my own. (~~not *I used to often study*~~)

▲ *Used to* is much more common than *would*.

### 4 *be/get used to* + *-ing* or noun

*Be used to* means 'be accustomed to'. It can be past, present or future, unlike *used to*, which is a past tense.

***I'm used to working*** at weekends. (= I often work at weekends, it's normal for me now)

The question form is:

***Are you used to working*** at weekends?

*Get used to* means 'gradually become accustomed to'. It can be past, present or future, unlike *used to*, which is a past tense.

***My new school starts at 7.30. I'm not used to starting classes so early but I guess I'll soon get used to doing it.***

(= My previous school started later, but I'll soon become accustomed to the change and it won't bother me.)

*Be/get used to* can be followed by *-ing* or by a noun/pronoun:

He ***wasn't used to criticism*** and found it hard to accept.

(= People hadn't criticised him before so he didn't like it.)

***My parents are getting used to a quiet house, now the children have all left home.***

(= When the children first left, my parents found the house strangely quiet, but it's gradually becoming normal for them.)

## C Grammar exercises

### 1 Complete the text with the past simple form of these verbs.

be begin come drink eat explain feed find get give go have know learn  
meet read seem speak spread write

#### The mystery of Kaspar Hauser

The mystery of Kaspar Hauser (1) began in Nuremberg, Germany, about 200 years ago. One morning, the people of the town (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a young man standing alone in the square. He was holding a piece of paper in his hand. The paper (3) \_\_\_\_\_ only that he (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the son of a soldier. Kaspar (5) \_\_\_\_\_ how to say a few words and when given a paper and pencil he (6) \_\_\_\_\_ his name, but he (7) \_\_\_\_\_ completely ignorant about everyday life. At first he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ only bread and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ only water, but he gradually (10) \_\_\_\_\_ used to ordinary meals. He also (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to talk properly.



The real truth about his birth remains a mystery, but it is probable that his father kept him in one small room for the whole of his early life. He (12) \_\_\_\_\_ him on bread and (13) \_\_\_\_\_ him water to drink. Kaspar never (14) \_\_\_\_\_ out, he never (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone or (16) \_\_\_\_\_ other children. In spite of this extraordinary childhood, Kaspar was not stupid. He (17) \_\_\_\_\_ books and (18) \_\_\_\_\_ discussions with teachers and philosophers. News about Kaspar (19) \_\_\_\_\_ through Europe and visitors (20) \_\_\_\_\_ from abroad to meet him.

### 2 Fill in the gaps with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs.

- My parents got (get) to know each other when they were studying (study) at university.
- Doctor Fisher \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) widely as a young man and \_\_\_\_\_ (always keep) a diary.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) my brother and his friend when I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for the bus, but they \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) me.
- Lily \_\_\_\_\_ (fill) in the application form and \_\_\_\_\_ (give) it to the receptionist.
- While I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in Rome, I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) a girl who \_\_\_\_\_ (look) just like your sister.
- Simon \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new laptop because his old one \_\_\_\_\_ (always crash).
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (miss) your text because my phone \_\_\_\_\_ (charge) in another room.
- Anna's feeling depressed because she \_\_\_\_\_ (hope) for a pay rise last week, but she \_\_\_\_\_ (not get) one.

## 2 Past tenses

### 3 Choose the correct form of the verbs in this text.

My granny is 93 and she's come to live with us at our house. We're all pleased because we love having her near us. She's a very independent person and until this year, she (1) *refused* / *was refusing* to move to the flat on our ground floor. But last month she suddenly (2) *changed* / *was changing* her mind and I (3) *asked* / *would ask* her why. She explained that for years, nobody in her village (4) *would lock* / *was locking* their front doors and the place (5) *used to feel* / *would feel* safe, but last month (6) she *met* / *was meeting* a neighbour in the street when she (7) *was walking* / *would walk* home from the shops and (8) *heard* / *was hearing* some bad news. Thieves (9) *were breaking* / *got used to breaking* into people's houses while they (10) *were sitting* / *would sit* in their back gardens.

She (11) *realised* / *was realising* that she (12) *wasn't wanting* / *didn't want* to live alone any more. She (13) *isn't used* / *didn't use* to being in the town yet, but it's not as difficult as she (14) *was thinking* / *thought* it might be, and she loves seeing us more often.

### 4 Fill in the gaps with a suitable form of *be/get used to*.

- 1 Rita's very tired this morning. She isn't used to (not) going to bed late.
- 2 Don't worry about the children: they \_\_\_\_\_ going to school by bus.
- 3 My new boss \_\_\_\_\_ giving orders, not receiving them.
- 4 She \_\_\_\_\_ (not) drinking very strong coffee and it made her ill.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (you) our climate or do you still miss the sunshine?
- 6 I had never stayed in such an expensive hotel before, but I soon \_\_\_\_\_ it.

### 5 Complete these sentences by Cambridge First candidates with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs.

- 1 Don't ask me about the concert! I was working (work) in the stadium café when the band was playing (play).
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ (look) round the palace when a man \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) me to ask for directions.
- 3 The lights \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out while she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a party in her house.
- 4 She \_\_\_\_\_ (go) quietly out of her bedroom and \_\_\_\_\_ (stand) behind the door so she could hear what they were saying.
- 5 I \_\_\_\_\_ (hope) my colleagues would say 'happy birthday' when I got to work, but nobody \_\_\_\_\_ (say) anything.

### 6 Correct the mistakes with *used to* in these sentences by Cambridge First candidates.

- 1 When I was a child I ~~am used~~ to go camping. used
- 2 My parents used to often take me to the zoo. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 They didn't used to help their parents with housework, but now they do. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 We use to go to the beach every day last summer. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Helen is a teacher at a primary school, so she used to teach children. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 I would like to be a sports instructor because I was used to train tennis players before I came to England. \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading and Use of English Part 1

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

## A musician is discovered

When Jimmy Yates was a small boy, his family (0) A their holidays on his grandfather's farm. This was in a valley (1) \_\_\_\_\_ by mountains. It was during one of these visits that Jimmy's (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to remember a tune led to the suggestion that the boy should (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a musical instrument. One evening a discussion (4) \_\_\_\_\_ among the adults about the differences between two hit songs. His father tried to prove the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of the two tunes by playing them, not very well, on his guitar. No one thought that Jimmy, who was only five, was listening, but suddenly he made his (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to the ancient piano which stood in the corner and played first one of the tunes and then the other. The family was amazed (7) \_\_\_\_\_ no one had heard him play any music before. In this way, Jimmy's musical (8) \_\_\_\_\_ began.

- |   |                     |                    |                   |                     |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 0 | <b>A</b> spent      | <b>B</b> made      | <b>C</b> took     | <b>D</b> went       |
| 1 | <b>A</b> surrounded | <b>B</b> closed    | <b>C</b> held     | <b>D</b> circled    |
| 2 | <b>A</b> talent     | <b>B</b> gift      | <b>C</b> ability  | <b>D</b> skill      |
| 3 | <b>A</b> take up    | <b>B</b> start up  | <b>C</b> pick up  | <b>D</b> join up    |
| 4 | <b>A</b> happened   | <b>B</b> came      | <b>C</b> entered  | <b>D</b> arose      |
| 5 | <b>A</b> comparison | <b>B</b> closeness | <b>C</b> likeness | <b>D</b> similarity |
| 6 | <b>A</b> path       | <b>B</b> way       | <b>C</b> route    | <b>D</b> line       |
| 7 | <b>A</b> so         | <b>B</b> although  | <b>C</b> when     | <b>D</b> as         |
| 8 | <b>A</b> work       | <b>B</b> living    | <b>C</b> career   | <b>D</b> study      |



## Exam tip

If you are unsure, try to work out which answers are wrong. See what is left, and if you are still unsure, make a guess!

## Grammar focus task

In the exam task there are some irregular past simple verbs. Without looking back at the text, write the past simple form of these verbs.

- |   |       |              |   |      |       |    |       |       |
|---|-------|--------------|---|------|-------|----|-------|-------|
| 1 | arise | <u>arose</u> | 5 | hear | _____ | 9  | spend | _____ |
| 2 | begin | _____        | 6 | hold | _____ | 10 | stand | _____ |
| 3 | come  | _____        | 7 | lead | _____ | 11 | take  | _____ |
| 4 | go    | _____        | 8 | make | _____ | 12 | think | _____ |