



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

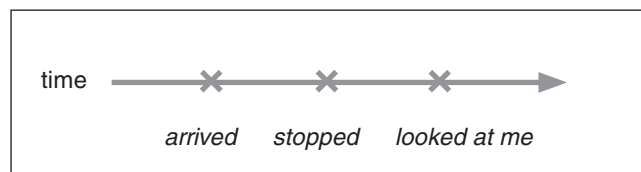
As I walked in, they all stopped talking and looked at me.

## Presentation

### Past simple

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

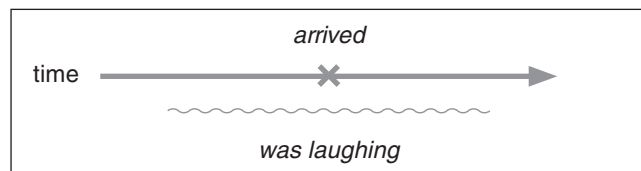
*When I arrived, they all **stopped** and **looked** at me.*



### 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.

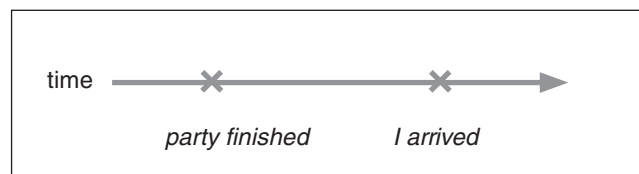
Say *I **knew** the waiter very well.* (don't say *I ~~was knowing~~ the waiter very well.*)

See Unit 3: Stative verbs in the continuous

### Past perfect simple

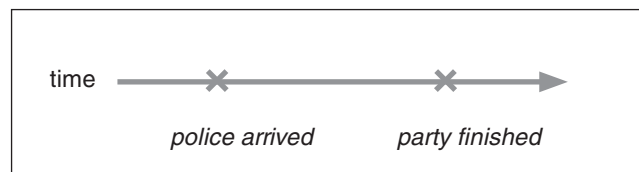
You use the past perfect simple to show that something happened before the main event:

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



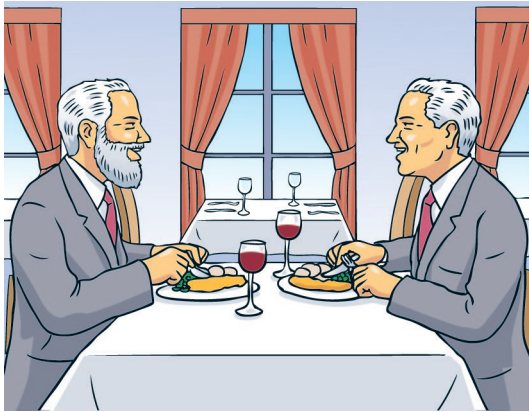
If you use the past simple, it shows that one action happened after the other:

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



See page 235: Summary of past simple, past continuous and past perfect simple

**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 finished / finished 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 have a drink in a nearby bar.
- 3 I had just got 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 rubbish bin. It <sup>19</sup>was eating / ate the food that <sup>20</sup>had fallen / was falling on to the pavement.

**3 Ⓢ Complete the dialogue using the past simple, past continuous, or past perfect simple. Then listen and check.**

- 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 girlfriend's 30<sup>th</sup> 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 disco ...
- 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) till 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 hi-fi, the computer ...
- B: Oh, no! Poor Hugh!