PAST SIMPLE

For Dix and Laura it was love at first sight. But then a girl died. The police were sure that it was Dix who murdered her. Laura defended him. She didn’t believe the stories about his violent past. But Dix became more and more possessive and she wasn’t so sure. Did Dix kill the girl? Was their love strong enough to survive?

* Use the past simple to talk about actions and situations in the past.
* Here are some common **time expressions** often used with the past simple: *yesterday, last week, last year, two years ago, five minutes ago*

1. **Complete the text with the past simple form of the verb in brackets or short answers.**

Dix 1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) a writer and Laura 2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) a young actress. They 3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (live) in the same apartment block, but they 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not know) each other. One night Dix 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (bring) a young girl back to his flat. As they arrived, they 6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (meet) Laura. She and Dix 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (look) at each other. They 8\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not speak), but they were instantly attracted to each other. The next morning the police 9\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (ask) Laura to go to the police station. The girl 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) dead. The police 11 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (think) that Dix was the murderer. ‘12\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (you see) Dix leave with the girl?’ they 13\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (ask). ‘No, I 14 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,’ she replied, ‘I 15 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (see) him standing at his bedroom window – alone.’ Dix and Laura’s eyes met across the room. Everyone could see they 16 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) in love.

1. **Complete the questions with the past simple form of the verbs in the box.**

ask be (x 2) do meet talk tell

1. What job \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dix \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? He was a writer.
2. When \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dix and Laura \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ first ? One night, when Dix brought a girl home to his flat.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to each other? No, they didn’t. They just looked at each other.
4. Why \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the police \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Laura to go to the police station? They wanted to ask her some questions.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dix worried? No, he was sure Laura could prove his innocence.
6. What \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ she\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the police? That she saw him standing alone at his bedroom window.
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they in love? Yes, it was obvious to everybody.

**PAST CONTINUOUS**

* Use the **past continuous** to talk about actions and situations in progress at a particular moment in the past:

*It* ***was snowing*** *and the traffic* ***was moving*** *really slowly.*

* You also often use the past continuous to describe the background to a story:

*It was winter. I* ***was staying*** *with my grandparents at the time.*

* Do not use the past continuous with stative verbs*: I needed …* (not *I was needing*.)

**PAST CONTINUOUS AND PAST SIMPLE**

* You can use the past continuous with the past simple to talk about two actions that happened at the same time.
* Use the past continuous to talk about the action which was already in progress.
* Use the past simple to talk about a second, shorter action. The second, shorter action sometimes interrupts the action already in progress.

 

1. **Choose the correct form of the verb. Then listen and check.**

**Conversation 1**

A: What **1** *did you do / were you doing* at 2 a.m. this morning? **2** *Did you have / Were you having* a party?

B: No, not a party. We **3** *invited / were inviting* some friends round for dinner. Why?

A: The music was really loud! I **4** *tried / was trying* to get to sleep.

B: Sorry! I **5** *didn’t know / wasn’t knowing* it was so loud.

**Conversation 2**

C: Oh! Hello! I didn’t know you **6** *waited / were waiting* for me. I **7** *spoke / was speaking* to Mark on the phone.

D: It’s OK. I **8** *finished / was finishing* work about half an hour ago. Would you like to go for a quick coffee? Have you got time?

C: Yes, I have. I **9** *just looked / was just looking* at a report, but I can finish it later.

1. **Complete the text with the past continuous or past simple of the verbs in brackets.**



A man **1** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (walk) down the street. It **2** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) a beautiful day – the sun **3** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (shine) and the birds **4** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (sing). The man **5** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (walk) past a park bench when he **6** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (see) a piece of paper on the floor. He **7** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (pick) it up. It **8** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) a lottery ticket. He **9** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cross) the street to a shop where a woman **10** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (write) the winning lottery numbers on a board. He **11** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (read) the numbers on the board and **12** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (look) at the numbers on his ticket. He couldn’t believe his eyes! As he **13** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (walk) out of the shop, he **14** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (dream) about how he would spend his three-million-pound prize!

USED TO



Woman: I didn’t use to like spiders until I met Kevin. I used to be really scared of them. I used to scream and run away if I saw one.

Reporter: Kevin, did you use to be scared of spiders too?

Man: No, I’ve always loved them. I *used to keep them in a box under my bed when I was a kid.*

**Use *used to* to talk about …**

* past habitual actions (things that happened regularly in the past): *I* ***used to*** *scream and run away.*
* The past habitual action may or may not still be true in the present.
* No longer true: *I used to run away from spiders, now I keep them as pets.*
* Still true: *I used to scream when I saw a spider when I was a child, and I still do.*
* situations and states that are no longer true: *I* ***used to*** *hate spiders but I don’t mind them now.*
* You only use *used to* to talk about the past. You cannot use it to talk about the present.
* Say *I don’t* ***usually do*** *any work at the weekend*. (don’t say *I don’t use to do any work at the weekend.*)
* You can also use the past simple to talk about past habits and situations: *I* ***kept*** *spiders as pets*. (I used to keep spiders as pets.)

**You do not use *used to* to talk about …**

* a specific time or action in the past:

Say *I got up at six this morning*. (don’t say *I used to get up at six this morning*.)

* the number of times something happened in total:

Say *We* ***went*** *to the zoo three times last year*. (don’t say *We used to go to the zoo three times last year.*)

* when you say how long a single action or situation lasted:

Say *We* ***lived*** *in France for three years*. (don’t say *We used to live in France for three years.*)

1. **Choose the correct form.**



1. When I was a kid, I **1** *used to / didn’t use to* think there were monsters under my bed. I never **2** *used to / didn’t use to* go to sleep until my mum had looked under the bed.
2. I **3** *used to / didn’t use to* like dogs. Our neighbours had a big black dog that always **4** *used to / didn’t use to* bark at me whenever I went near it. I **5** *used to / didn’t use to* cross the road to get away from it.
3. I **6** *used to / didn’t use to* like visiting my great aunt. She **7** *used to / didn’t use to* have any toys for us to play with and she never **8** *used to / didn’t use to* let us watch TV.
4. **Complete the conversation using the correct form of *used to* and short answers. Then listen and check.**

A: **1** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (you have) any pets when you were young?

B: Yes, we **2** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We always **3** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) animals in the house: cats and dogs, and sometimes birds and fish too.

A: **4** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (you help) to look after them?

B: Yes, my dad said that we could only have pets if we promised to look after them. We **5** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (take) it in turns. My sister **6** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not like) looking after the birds very much. She **7** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) scared they’d peck her.

1. **Rewrite the sentences using *used to* where possible.**
2. My brother kept snakes when he was younger. *My brother used to keep snakes.*
3. He got his first snake when he was eight. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. He kept them in a box in the garage. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. He looked after them very well. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. They lived there for almost six years. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Then he lost interest and he took them all to the local zoo. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. He visited them there once a week. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. I think he went about nine or ten times before he forgot about them. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_