



# CRIMES AND CRIMINALS

Past Simple vs. Past Continuous





# LET'S TALK!

Do you know any of the films/series below? Can you briefly tell what they are about?

What do they have in common?



# ANSWERS

All of the mentioned films and series have a common theme of crime or mystery. They are about criminal activities, investigations, or the unraveling of mysteries. Whether it's a murder mystery, a heist, or a story of deception, each narrative focuses on the elements of crime, investigation, and suspense.



Money Heist (Netflix series): An exciting series about a group of criminals who plan and execute a heist on the Royal Mint of Spain. They take hostages and face off against the police as they try to carry out their plan.



Inventing Anna: Inspired by a true story, this series follows a woman named Anna who pretends to be a wealthy socialite in New York. She gets involved in criminal schemes, including stealing identities and money, leading to a captivating story of ambition and deceit.



Sherlock Holmes: A TV show about Sherlock Holmes, a brilliant detective in modern-day London. Together with his friend, Dr. Watson, they solve complex crimes using Sherlock's exceptional observation and deduction skills.



Knives Out: A movie about a famous writer who is found dead, and a detective investigates to uncover who committed the crime. There are many secrets and surprises as the detective tries to solve the mystery.



The Murder on the Nile: A movie based on an Agatha Christie book where a detective named Poirot investigates a murder that takes place during a luxurious boat trip along the Nile River. Poirot must uncover the truth by unraveling lies and secrets among the passengers.

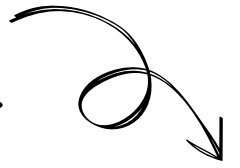


Enola Holmes: A movie about Sherlock Holmes' younger sister, Enola, who goes on an adventure to find their missing mother. Along the way, she gets involved in a dangerous plot and must use her cleverness to solve the mystery and stay safe.



# CRIMES

Fill in the blanks with the words below.  
Discuss the meaning of the unknown words.



looting | shoplifting | to rob a person or a place | thief | burglar | to forge money or documents | kidnapper |  
to set on fire | murder | arsonist | smuggler | to damage

*crime*

*criminal*

*action*

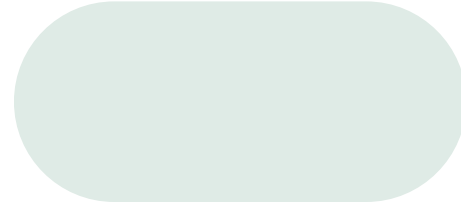
*crime*

*criminal*

*action*



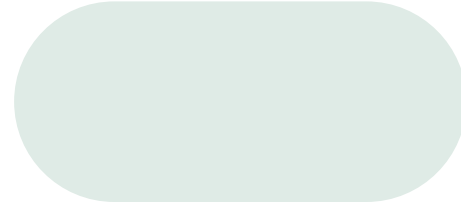
theft



to steal



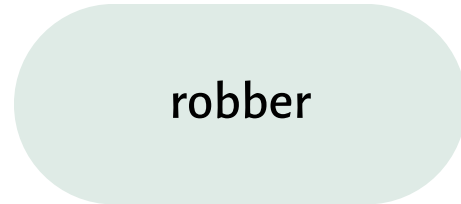
smuggling



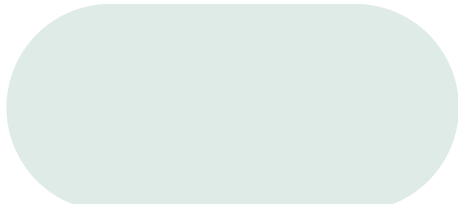
to smuggle



robbery



robber



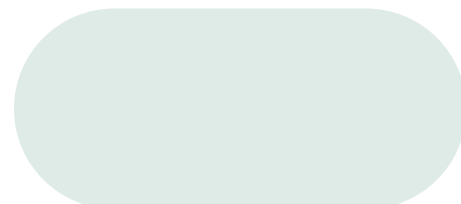
looter



to loot



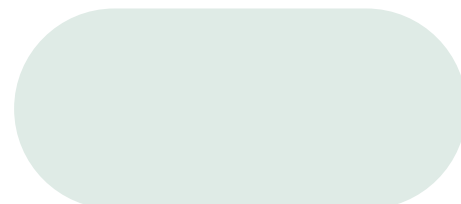
burglary



to break into a house/  
to burgle



kidnapping



to kidnap



mugging

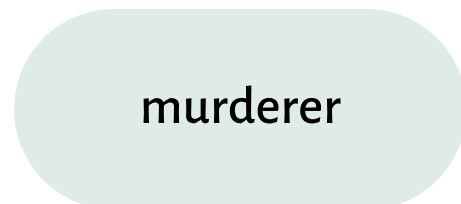


mugger

to mug somebody



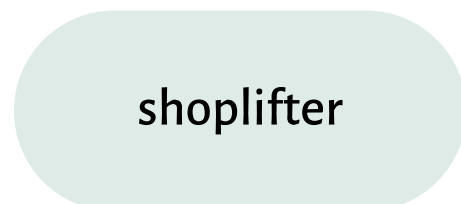
murderer



to murder/to kill



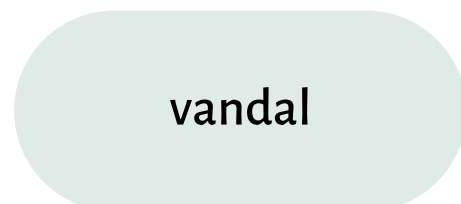
shoplifter



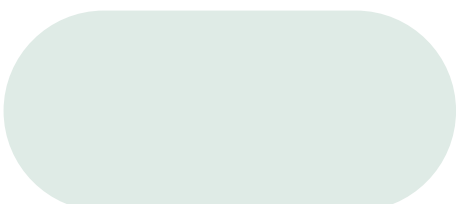
to steal from a shop/  
to shoplift



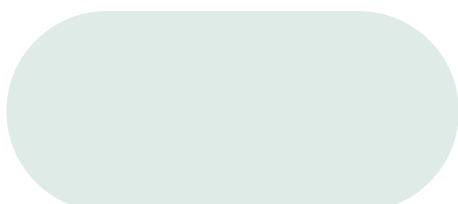
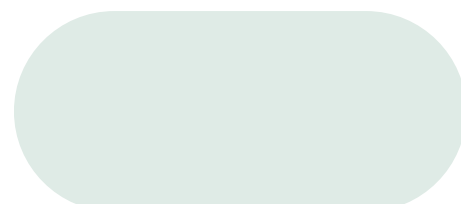
vandalism



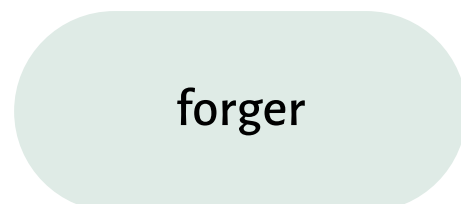
vandal



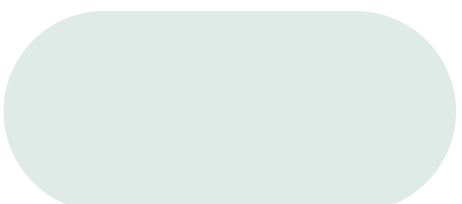
arson



forgery



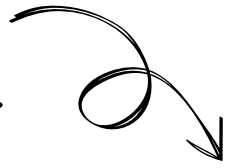
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# ANSWERS

Fill in the blanks with the words below.  
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to set on fire | murder | arsonist | smuggler | to damage

*crime*

*criminal*

*action*

*crime*

*criminal*

*action*



theft

thief

to steal



smuggling

smuggler

to smuggle



robbery

robber

to rob a person or  
a place



looting

looter

to loot



burglary

burglar

to break into a  
house/ to burgle



kidnapping

kidnapper

to kidnap



mugging

mugger

to mug somebody



murder

murderer

to murder/to kill



shoplifting

shoplifter

to steal from a  
shop/ to shoplift



vandalism

vandal

to damage



arson

arsonist

to set on fire



forgery

forgery

to forge money or  
documents



# THEFT/ROBBERY/MUGGING/BURGLARY

Did you get the difference between these crimes? Match the crimes with the pictures. Write the numbers in the boxes .



1. Mugging is robbery which takes place against a pedestrian on the street.

2. Theft is the act of taking property or money that does not belong to you and you have no permission from the owner to take.

3. Burglary is the act of entering a building illegally to commit a crime.

4. Robbery is theft by the threat or use of force.

Discuss the questions below. Discuss the meaning of the unknown words.

- Have you ever witnessed or experienced a robbery? If so, could you describe what happened?
- What steps can individuals and communities take to protect themselves against burglaries?
- Have you ever had something stolen from you? How did it happen, and did you manage to recover the stolen item?
- Where do you think these crimes are more likely to happen? Why?

# ANSWERS

Did you get the difference between these crimes? Match the crimes with the pictures. Write the numbers in the boxes .



2



3



1



4

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2. Theft is the act of taking property or money that does not belong to you and you have no permission from the owner to take.

3. Burglary is the act of entering a building illegally to commit a crime.

4. Robbery is theft by the threat or use of force. One can rob a person/a place.

Discuss the questions below.

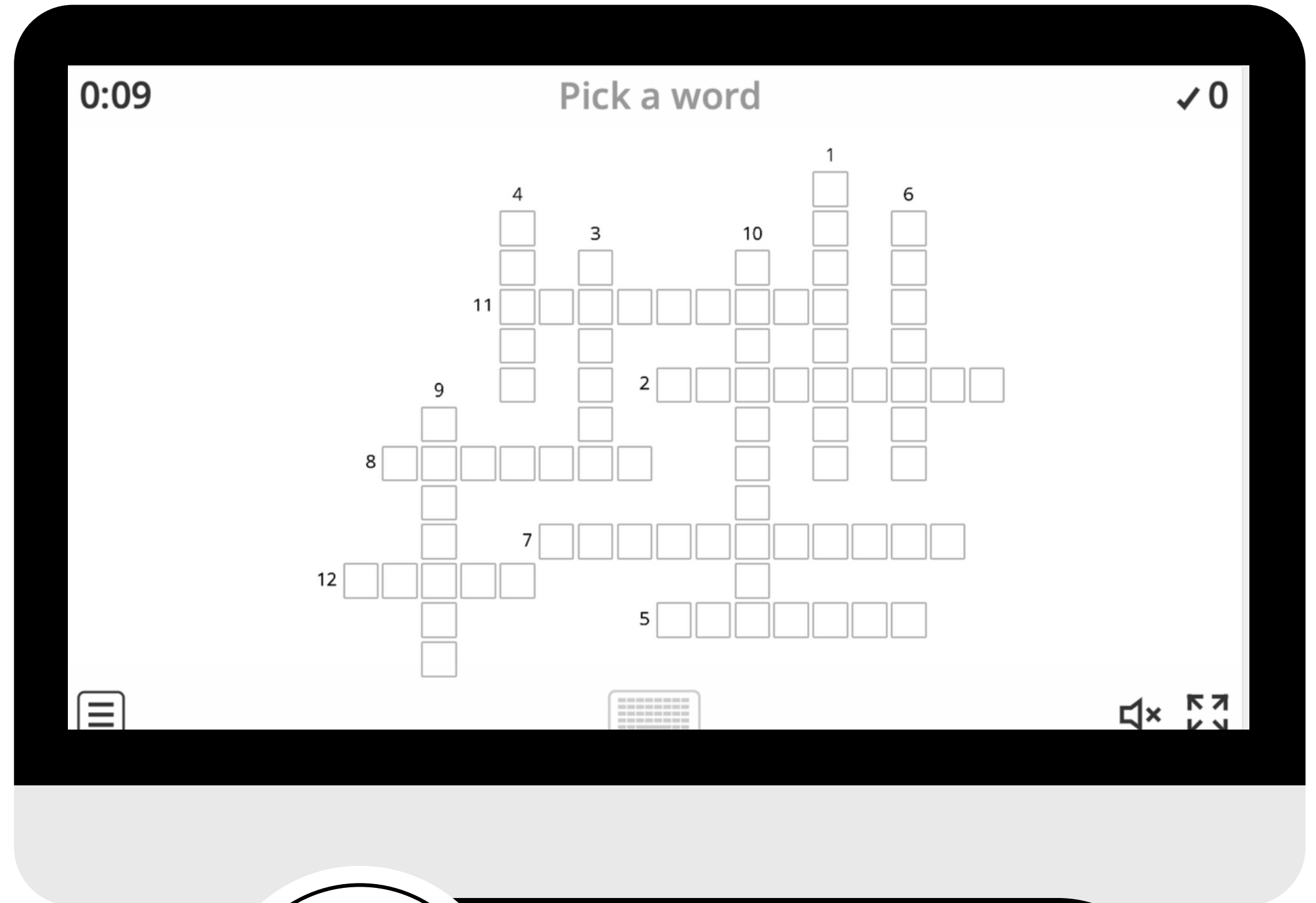
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# CROSSWORD

*Complete the crossword together or individually to revise the crime vocabulary.*

*Students can get a link and complete the crossword on their device to practice spelling.*



**PLAY NOW**





# MORE USEFUL VOCABULARY

Match the highlighted phrases with their meanings.

1. The police **arrested a suspect** who was seen running away from the crime scene. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The detectives **have strong evidence** against the suspect, including fingerprints and CCTV footage. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The police officers carefully examined the area to **look for clues** that could help solve the crime. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mary **witnessed a crime** and immediately reported it to the police. \_\_\_\_\_
5. It is important to remember that it is against the law to **commit a crime**. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The police are **investigating the crime** to gather more information and find the person responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
7. If you commit a serious crime, you may have to **go to prison** as a punishment. \_\_\_\_\_
8. It's important to **report a crime to the police** as soon as possible so they can take action. \_\_\_\_\_

- a) When you tell the police about something bad that happened, like a theft or an attack.
- b) When you see something bad happening, like a robbery or any other crime.
- c) When the police take someone to the police station because they think this person did something wrong.
- d) When someone is sent to a special place as punishment for doing something against the law.
- e) When there is very good proof that shows someone did something wrong.
- f) When someone does something against the law or breaks the rules.
- g) When the police try to find out what happened by asking questions and looking for clues.
- h) When the police search for small signs or hints that can help them solve a crime.



# ANSWERS

Match the highlighted phrases with their meanings.

1. The police **arrested a suspect** who was seen running away from the crime scene. (c)
2. The detectives **have strong evidence** against the suspect, including fingerprints and CCTV footage. (e)
3. The police officers carefully examined the area to **look for clues** that could help solve the crime. (h)
4. Mary **witnessed a crime** and immediately reported it to the police. (b)
5. It is important to remember that it is against the law to **commit a crime**. (f)
6. The police are **investigating the crime** to gather more information and find the person responsible. (g)
7. If you commit a serious crime, you may have to **go to prison** as a punishment. (d)
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# LET'S PRACTICE

Read the dialogue. Fill in the gaps with the words below.

witness

suspect

investigate

crimes

burglary

clues

evidence

reported

arrest

Detective 1: Have you seen the number of \_\_\_\_\_ in our town? It's really alarming!

Detective 2: Yes, it's shocking! Just last week, there was a \_\_\_\_\_ where someone broke into a house of my neighbours.

Detective 1: That's terrible! We must find the criminal responsible for this. Did you \_\_\_\_\_ the crime?

Detective 2: Unfortunately, I didn't see it personally, but my neighbours \_\_\_\_\_ the break-in to the police.

Detective 1: We need to \_\_\_\_\_ this crime together. Let's look for \_\_\_\_\_ and gather strong \_\_\_\_\_ to help us catch the \_\_\_\_\_.

Detective 2: Absolutely! We can't let them get away with it. We must \_\_\_\_\_ the suspect and make sure they go to prison for their actions.

Detective 1: Agreed. The safety of our community is our top priority, and we won't rest until justice is served.

Detective 2: Let's work together and make sure our investigation is effective. We owe it to the citizens and our town.

Detective 1: Absolutely. We won't stop until we bring an end to these crimes and restore peace to our neighborhood.





# ANSWERS

Read the dialogue. Fill in the gaps with the words below.

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# DETECTIVE RIDDLE

Watch the video and solve the riddle. Complete the sentences below. Answer the questions (a -d).



1. Mr. Arthur Williams, a rich man that lived in a beautiful house on Baker Street, in London, has been \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ the entire house for clues.
3. I believe that I am \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I fear I may \_\_\_\_\_ by the 3rd of February.
5. There are four \_\_\_\_\_. Harry Williams is the son and the heir of the property. John Brooks is a close friend. June Williams is his wife. Jack Corbett is the butler.
6. Arthur knew someone close to him was after him. This is why he left a \_\_\_\_\_ in the note.

- a) What did Sherlock Holmes do to search for clues?
- b) What did the secret note found by Sherlock Holmes say?
- c) How did Sherlock Holmes understand who did it?
- d) Where did the police find Arthur Williams?

# ANSWERS

Watch the video and solve the riddle. Complete the sentences below. Answer the questions (a -d).



1. Mr. Arthur Williams, a rich man that lived in a beautiful house on Baker Street, in London, has been **kidnapped**.
2. He **searches** the entire house for clues.
3. I believe that I am **in danger**.
4. I fear I may **go missing** by the 3rd of February.
5. There are four **suspects**. Harry Williams is the son and the heir of the property. John Brooks is a close friend. June Williams is his wife. Jack Corbett is the butler.
6. Arthur knew someone close to him was after him. This is why he left a **clue** in the note.

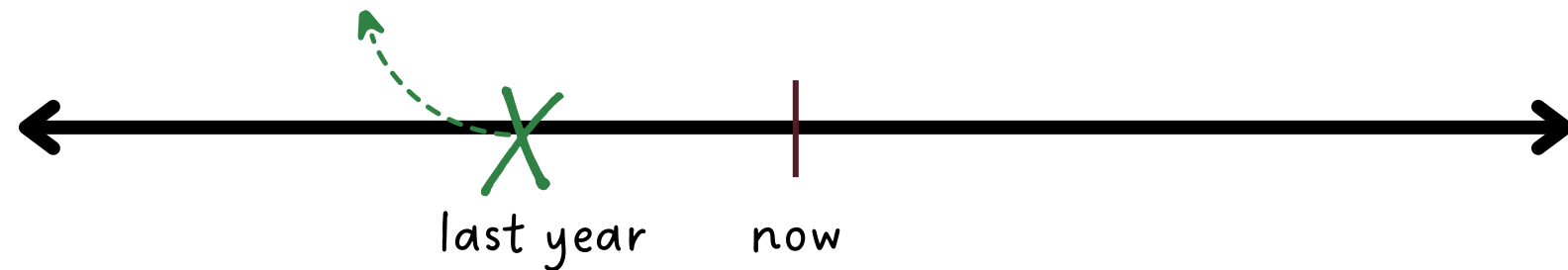
- a) Sherlock Holmes searched the entire house for clues.
- b) Arthur Williams believed he was in danger and that someone close to him might have ill intent.
- c) Based on the initials "J.B." in the note and the dates mentioned.
- d) The police found Arthur Williams at John Brooks' house.



# PAST SIMPLE VS. PAST CONTINUOUS

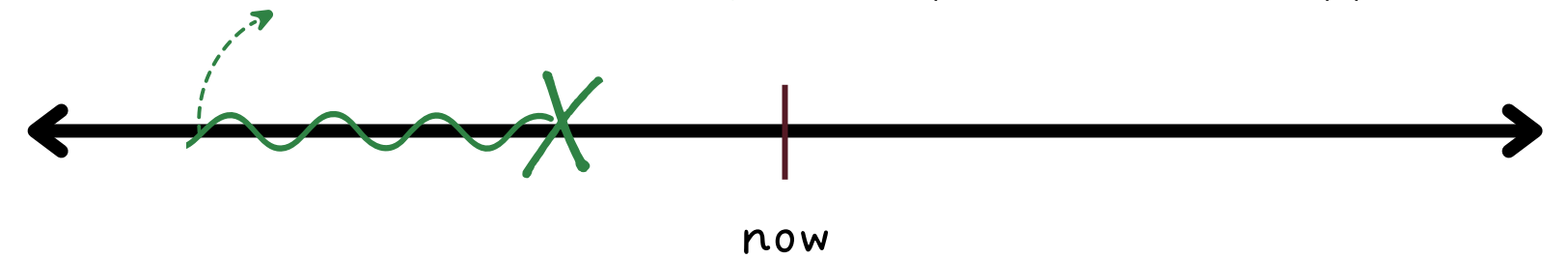
## past simple

The detective finally **solved** the mystery and **caught** the criminal last year.



## past continuous

The detective **was chasing** the suspect when he tripped and fell.



- The past simple is used to talk about a certain action or event that took place at a specific point in the past. *Two months ago, the judge punished the criminals for their actions.*
- We use the past simple to talk about past events in chronological order. *The thief entered the house, stole jewellery, and ran away before the police arrived.*
- We also use the past simple to talk about past habits or past states. *Bob really enjoyed detective stories and read a lot.*



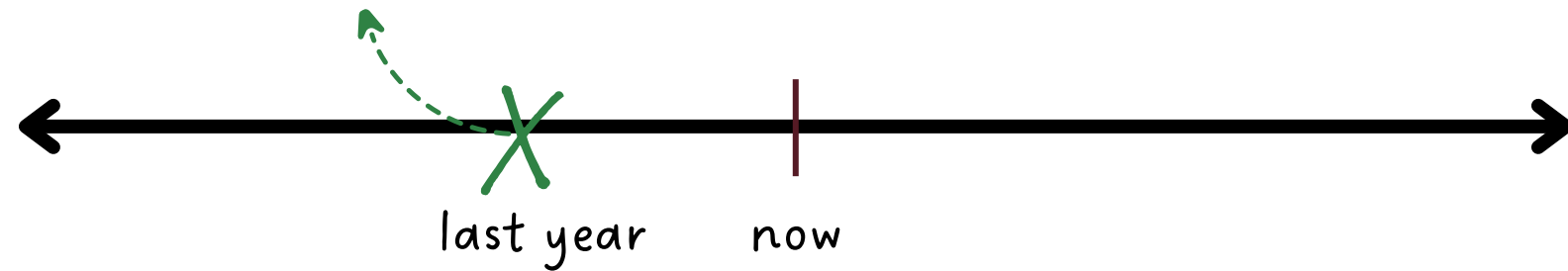
- The past continuous tense is used to talk about an action or event that was in progress at a specific point in the past. *At 3 p.m. yesterday, the detective was interviewing the witness to gather more information about the crime.*
- We use the past continuous to set the scene in a story. *It was a dark and stormy night, and the rain was pouring down while the detective was driving to the crime scene.*
- We use the past continuous for actions in progress in the past or longer actions interrupted by shorter actions in past simple. *The detective was chasing the suspect when he tripped and fell.*



# PAST SIMPLE VS. PAST CONTINUOUS

past simple

The detective finally **solved** the mystery and **caught** the criminal last year.



yesterday, last night/ week/month/year, ago, in 2005, in the past

+ Subject + V2/ed

*The detective solved the crime and arrested the suspect.*

- Subject + didn't + V

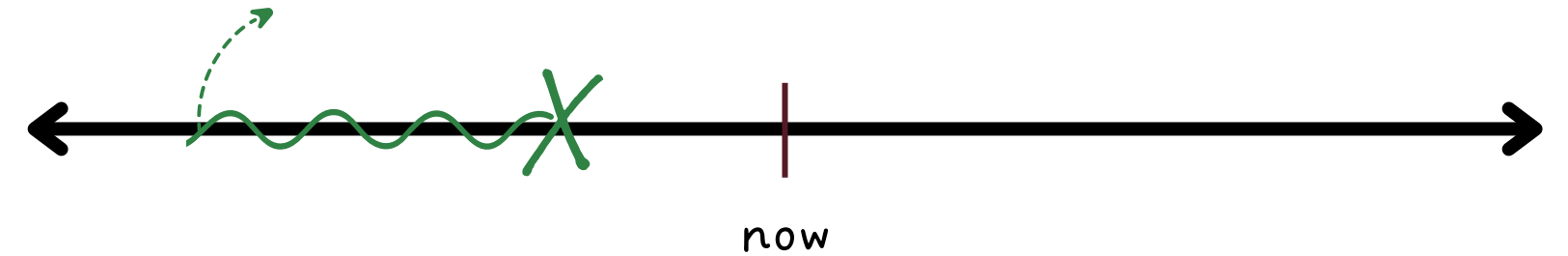
*The detective didn't solve the crime.*

? Did + Subject + V

*Did the detective solve the crime?*

past continuous

The detective **was chasing** the suspect when he tripped and fell.



while, when, all day, all evening, for hours, at that time, yesterday at 3 am

+ Subject + was/were + V+ing

*The detective was investigating the crime at that time.*

- Subject + wasn't/weren't + V+ing

*The detective wasn't investigating the crime at that time.*

? Was/Were + subject + V+ ing

*Was the detective investigating the crime at that time?*

Create your own examples in both tenses.





# WHAT IS THEIR ALIBI?

Look at the pictures and create sentences in the **past continuous tense**.



Sarah



Mark



Jason, Joe and Sia



Lisa



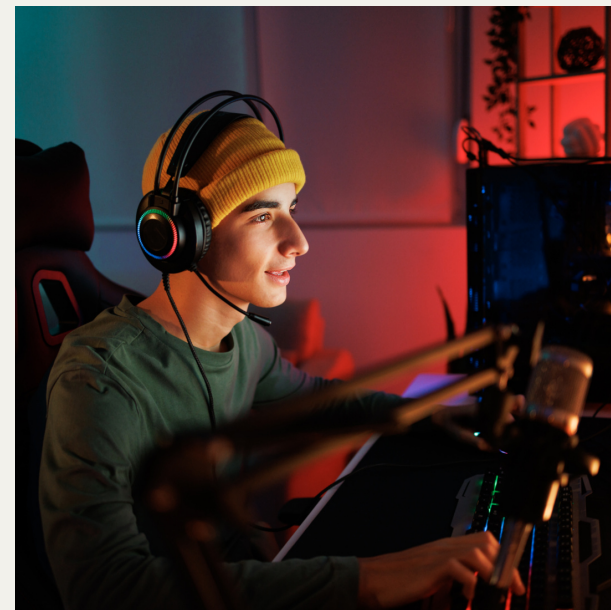
Emily



Kate and Rose



Mia



Ryan

*Detective Freedman is investigating a mysterious crime that took place in a small town. There are several suspects, and Detective Freedman needs to determine their alibis during the time of the crime. Whose alibi looks solid (good)?*





# POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Look at the pictures and create sentences in the **past continuous tense**.

*Detective Freedman is investigating a mysterious crime that took place in a small town. There are several suspects, and Detective Freedman needs to determine their alibis during the time of the crime. Whose alibi looks solid (good)?*



*Sarah*

Sarah was working out in gym.



*Mark*

Mark was playing basketball with his friends.



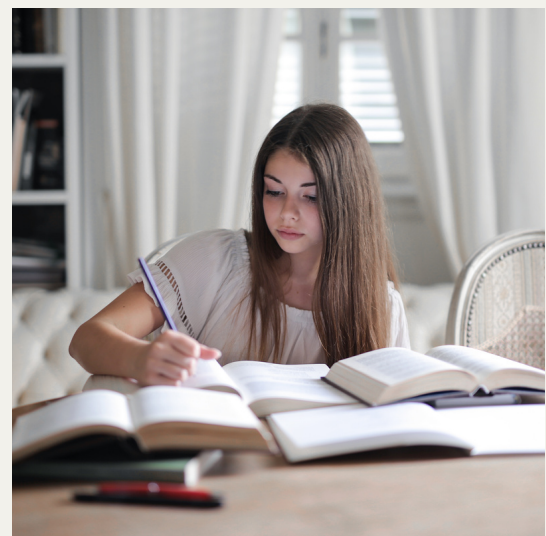
*Jason, Joe and Sia*

They were having a barbecue in the park.



*Lisa*

Lisa was dancing at the music festival.



*Emily*

Emily was studying for the exam.



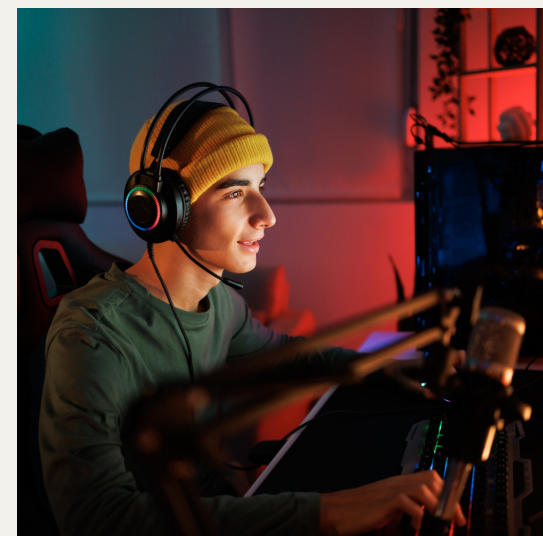
*Kate and Rose*

They were having a coffee in the new local cafe.



*Mia*

Mia was writing a book at home.



*Ryan*

Ryan was playing video games with his friends.



# DETECTIVE FREEDMAN'S DAY OFF

Work in pairs. Each person in the pair has a different card. Take turns asking each other questions about Detective Freedman's last day off and fill in the missing activities. Use either **the past simple or past continuous tense**.

8 am: wake up

8.10 - 8.30:

8.30 - 9.30:

9.30 - 10.00: take a shower

10.00 - 11.00:

11.00 - 12.00: meet a friend for lunch

12.00 - 2.00: shopping at the mall

2.00 - 3.30:

3.30 - 4.30: read a book

4.30 - 5.30: cook dinner

5.30 - 6.00:

6.00 - 8.00: play board games with the family

8.00 - 10.00:

10.00 - 11.00: browse her work chat

11.00: go to bed





# DETECTIVE FREEDMAN'S DAY OFF

Card 2

Work in pairs. Each person in the pair has a different card. Take turns asking each other questions about Detective Freedman's last day off and fill in the missing activities. Use either **the past simple or past continuous tense**.

8 am: wake up

8.10 - 8.30: have breakfast

8.30 - 9.30: run in the park

9.30 - 10.00:

10.00 - 11.00: do household chores

11.00 - 12.00:

12.00 - 2.00:

2.00 - 3.30: watch a crime movie at home

3.30 - 4.30:

4.30 - 5.30:

5.30 - 6.00: have dinner with the family

6.00 - 8.00:

8.00 - 10.00: relax and watch TV

10.00 - 11.00:

11.00:



# ANSWERS

Work in pairs. Each person in the pair has a different card. Take turns asking each other questions about Detective Freedman's last day off and fill in the missing activities. Use either **the past simple or past continuous tense**.

8 am: She woke up at 8 am.

8.10 - 8.30: She was having breakfast from 8.10 to 8.30.

8.30 - 9.30: From 8.30 to 9.30, she was running in the park.

9.30 - 10.00: She was taking a shower from 9.30 to 10.00.

10.00 - 11.00: Detective was doing household chores from 10.00 to 11.00.

11.00 - 12.00: She was meeting a friend for lunch in the local cafe from 11.00 to 12.00.

12.00 - 2.00: Detective Freedman was shopping at the mall from 12.00 to 2.00.

2.00 - 3.30: From 2.00 to 3.30, she was watching a crime movie at home.

3.30 - 4.30: She was reading a book from 3.30 to 4.30.

4.30 - 5.30: From 4.30 to 5.30, she was cooking dinner.

5.30 - 6.00: And from 5.30 to 6.00 she was having dinner with her family.

6.00 - 8.00: She was playing board games with the family from 6.00 to 8.00.

8.00 - 10.00: From 8.00 to 10.00, she was relaxing and watching TV.

10.00 - 11.00: Before bed, she was browsing her work chat.

11.00: She went to bed at 11 pm.



# LET'S PRACTICE!

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in either **the past simple or past continuous tense**.



1. The thief \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) the famous painting from the museum while the security guards \_\_\_\_\_ (patrol) the territory.
2. While the police officer \_\_\_\_\_ (search) the suspect's car, he \_\_\_\_\_ (find) a bag of stolen jewellery.
3. The criminal \_\_\_\_\_ (escape) from prison while the guards \_\_\_\_\_ (monitor) the security cameras.
4. The detective \_\_\_\_\_ (interview) the witness for 3 hours.
5. The detective \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) an anonymous call that \_\_\_\_\_ (help) solve the case.
6. The detective \_\_\_\_\_ (question) the witness when suddenly the lights \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out.
7. Detective Johnson \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) down the dark alley when she \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) a loud noise coming from behind the corner.
8. The security cameras \_\_\_\_\_ (record) the suspect's every move during the burglary.

# ANSWERS

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in either the past simple or past continuous tense.



1. The thief **stole** the famous painting from the museum while the security guards **were patrolling** the territory.
2. While the police officer **was searching** the suspect's car, he **found** a bag of stolen jewellery.
3. The criminal **escaped** from prison while the guards **were monitoring** the security cameras.
4. The detective **was interviewing** the witness for 3 hours.
5. The detective **received** an anonymous call that **helped** solve the case.
6. The detective **was questioning** the witness when suddenly the lights **went out**.
7. Detective Johnson **was walking** down the dark alley when she **heard** a loud noise coming from behind the corner.
8. The security cameras **were recording** the suspect's every move during the burglary.



# LET'S PLAY!



*Complete the tasks and help solve the case  
Write down the numbers you find and add  
them up to get the secret code..*

*Practice using the past simple and past  
continuous tenses.*

*Have fun!*



**PLAY NOW**





# EXTRA TASK

Underline the correct verb form in each sentence. Choose between **the past simple or past continuous tense**.

1. The detective questioned/was questioning the suspect while he sweated/was sweating nervously under the bright lights.
2. The thief stole/was stealing a sculpture from the museum.
3. The detective received/was receiving a cryptic message that led/was leading her to an old house.
4. The witness saw/was seeing the suspect running away from the crime scene while she walked/was walking her dog.
5. While James shoplifted/was shoplifting a wallet from the store, Sarah kept/was keeping a lookout at the door.
6. While Emma walked/was walking home alone, she was suddenly mugged by someone.
7. She reported/was reporting the crime to the police yesterday.
8. The police officer arrived/was arriving at the crime scene, secured/was securing the area, and called/was calling for backup.
9. The witness described/was describing the criminal to the police while the sketch artist drew/was drawing the suspect's face.
10. The police searched/were searching for clues the whole night.



# ANSWERS

Underline the correct verb form in each sentence. Choose between **the past simple or past continuous tense**.

1. The detective questioned/was questioning the suspect while he sweated/was sweating nervously under the bright lights.
2. The thief stole/was stealing a sculpture from the museum.
3. The detective received/was receiving a cryptic message that led/was leading her to an old house.
4. The witness saw/was seeing the suspect running away from the crime scene while she walked/was walking her dog.
5. While James shoplifted/was shoplifting a wallet from the store, Sarah kept/was keeping a lookout at the door.
6. While Emma walked/was walking home alone, she was suddenly mugged by someone.
7. She reported/was reporting the crime to the police yesterday.
8. The police officer arrived/was arriving at the crime scene, secured/was securing the area, and called/was calling for backup.
9. The witness described/was describing the criminal to the police while the sketch artist drew/was drawing the suspect's face.
10. The police searched/were searching for clues the whole night.





# QUIZLET

*Revise the words and complete different activities to memorize them even better.*





**THANK YOU!**

