

## Unit 2 Handout 4

I. We use **Past Simple** to talk about **past experiences at a definite time**.

She **studied** in Yale from **2015 to 2018**.  
 We **saw** a man mugging an old lady **yesterday**.  
 He **was** caught speeding **last weekend**.

He **didn't confess** the truth when the prosecutor interrogated him.  
 The defendant **didn't have** a consistent alibi.  
 They **weren't** indicted for murder. (sentenced)

**Did** you **prepare** your closing speech before going to court?  
 When **did** they **present** the evidence?  
 Who **was** responsible for the crime?

II. Complete the following sentences using the **Past Simple form** of the verbs in brackets.

1. Carlos \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to study Law last year, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not like) it. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) too difficult for him.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ your lawyer \_\_\_\_\_ (find) the necessary evidence to indict the suspect? No, she \_\_\_\_\_ (be not able) to do it.
3. Mary and Luca \_\_\_\_\_ (witness) a crime last night. They \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a man breaking into their neighbour's house. They \_\_\_\_\_ (call) the police but they \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a long time to get there.
4. When Mike \_\_\_\_\_ (be) 20 years old he \_\_\_\_\_ (use to) steal food from the supermarkets. When he \_\_\_\_\_ (turn) 22, he \_\_\_\_\_ (start) mugging people in busy streets until he \_\_\_\_\_ (be caught) by the police.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ your mother \_\_\_\_\_ (work) as a lawyer in Senegal? Yes, she \_\_\_\_\_ (work) there for 15 years, then she \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to work at a public prosecutor's office but she \_\_\_\_\_ (not enjoy) it very much. She \_\_\_\_\_ (not feel) comfortable with the working environment in that place.

III. **Present Perfect vs Past Simple**

Present Perfect expressions		Past Simple expressions	
Before	never	Yesterday	A few days ago
Since	This week	Before yesterday	In 2010
Yet	This year	Last week	When...
Already	Today	Last month	
Recently	So far this year	3 years ago	
Just	In the last ten days	4 hours ago	
ever	Over the years		

She has worked in this company **for 3 years**.

She worked in this company **3 years ago**

They haven't traveled to Paris **yet**.

They didn't travel to Paris **when they visited Europe**.

Have you seen Pedro **today**?

Did you see Pedro **last night**?

## Unit 2 Handout 4

IV. Complete the following sentences using the **Present Perfect** or the **Past Simple** form of the verbs in brackets.

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) studying Engineering 2 years ago but she \_\_\_\_\_ (not practice) her profession yet.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ you ever \_\_\_\_\_ (ever be) victim of a crime? No, but my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (be) mugged 2 weeks ago.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ (break) several laws so far his life however he \_\_\_\_\_ (never be) caught.
4. They \_\_\_\_\_ (not attend) any of the classes so far and they \_\_\_\_\_ (not take) the test last week.
5. Last year there \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a long strike in our Faculty. We \_\_\_\_\_ (not come) to the University in almost 3 months. However this year, we \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) any strikes at the university yet.
6. Pedro \_\_\_\_\_ (work) as a lawyer since he \_\_\_\_\_ (come) back from Spain. As soon as he \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) in Chile, he \_\_\_\_\_ (apply) for a job and \_\_\_\_\_ (start) working immediately.

V. We use **Past Continuous** and **Past Simple** to describe situations in the past. We can use **while** with **Past Continuous** to give a background to another event in the **Past Simple**. We also use **when** with **Past Simple** to talk about specific events that interrupted ongoing events in the past.

I - he - she - it

- **While** she **was walking** in the park, someone **pushed** her and **stole** her bag.
- He **was not working** in Chile **when** they **called** him to defend an important case.
- **Was it raining when** she **had** the car accident?

You - we - they

- We **were waiting** for the verdict **while** the jury **was voting** in a separate room.
- They **were not looking** at their backpacks so the thief easily **stole** them.
- **Were** the burglars **wearing** a mask **when** they **broke into** the property?

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VI. Complete the sentences with **Past Continuous** or **Past Simple form** of the verb in brackets.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ (shop) when someone \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) his wallet.
2. While they \_\_\_\_\_ (interview) the defendant, they \_\_\_\_\_ (realize) he was innocent.
3. When he \_\_\_\_\_ (start) working, his classmates \_\_\_\_\_ still \_\_\_\_\_ (study).
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ (not drive) when the accident \_\_\_\_\_ (happen).
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) arrested while he \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to bribe the police officer.

VII. Take a look at this short story. Fill in the blanks with the **missing verbs in the correct past tense**.



Susan, my best friend, 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (be) victim of pickpocketing several times. One time she 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the subway after her classes at the university while she 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to music and she didn't pay attention to her surroundings.

In one particular station, many people 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (get) on the subway train where Susan was, but she 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (be) too distracted to notice anything. After an hour, she 6 \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) home and at that moment she 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (realize) that she 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) her wallet. Someone stole her wallet with \$10.000 pesos and all her documents.

She 9 \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) very angry and sad and immediately went to the police station, but of course, she 10 \_\_\_\_\_ (recover) her belongings yet.