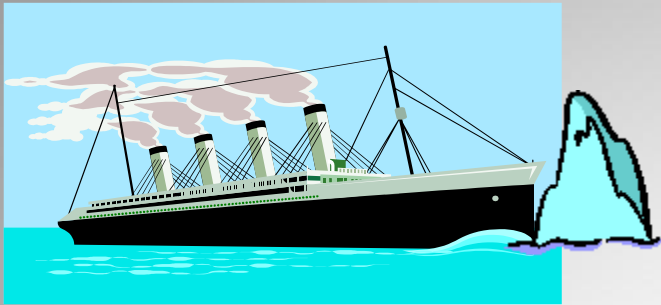


# **Past simple and Past continuous**

5<sup>th</sup> grade grammar.



# THE TITANIC SANK

## 100 YEARS AGO

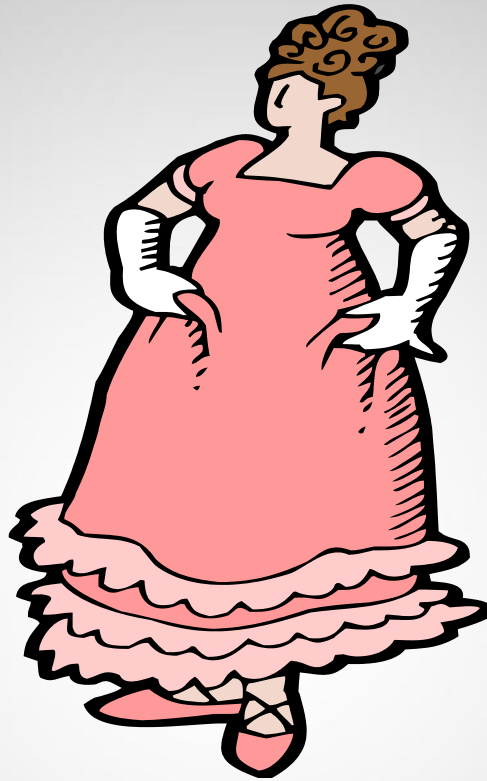
### PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

Everyone knows the famous story about the Titanic. This was the ship they said could not sink. She set off on her maiden voyage in 1912. She sailed from Southampton, England and her destination was New York. She steamed ahead, going very fast and she hit an iceberg. The rest, as they say, is history. She sank, with massive loss of life.

We interviewed some survivors and we asked, ‘What **were you doing** when the ship **hit** the iceberg?’



I **was sleeping** when she **hit** the iceberg.



I was dancing when the ship hit the iceberg.



I **was listening** to the orchestra **when** she **hit** the iceberg . I heard a screeching noise.



I **was playing** my violin **when** she **hit** the iceberg. I **felt** the ship shake. I **was frightened**, but I **kept** playing. I **didn't make** it, and to this day, people talk about my bravery.



I **was reading** a book **when** the ship **shuddered** and my glasses fell off.



I **was looking** through my binoculars **when** we **hit**, but I **didn't see** the iceberg until it **was** too late.





We **were sitting** down to have dinner **when** she **struck** the iceberg. The table **shook**.

# Past simple

- It is used:

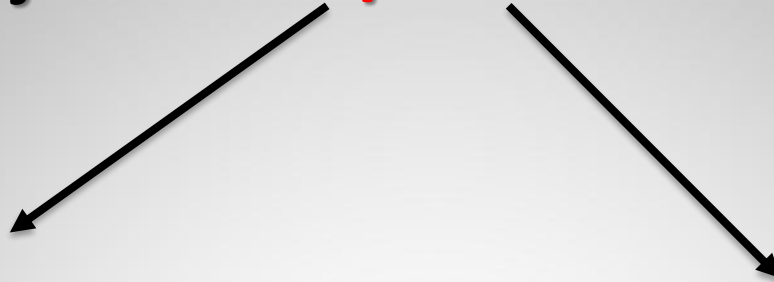
- ❑ For an action that started and ended in the past: **I saw a ghost last Friday.**
- ❑ For repeated actions in the past: **When I was young, I watched lots of TV every day.**
  - **I always gave flowers to my mother.**
- ❑ Regular and irregular past simple verbs: **I talked to my uncle yesterday.**

❑ **Form: Subject + Verb 2**

# Past continuous

- It is used:
  - When talking about two actions in the past; one continues for a period, and the other starts and ends in the past:
    - While I was talking on the phone, someone stole my car.
    - I was making my breakfast when my sister knocked at the door.
  - Form: subject + **was/were** + verb + **-ing**

- Subject + **was/were** + verb + **-ing**



**Singular  
subjects**

**(I/ He/ She/  
It)**

**Plural  
subjects**

**(They/ You/  
We)**

- When we use the past simple and the past continuous together in a sentence, a **long action (past continuous)** is **interrupted** by a **short action (past simple)**
- We use connectives like *When* and *While*)
- *When = short action*                      *While = long action*

# Examples:

- They **saw** a starfish **while** they **were walking** on the beach.
- I **wasn't listening** **when** the teacher **gave** the instructions.
- She **took** a photo **while** we **were getting out** of the bus.