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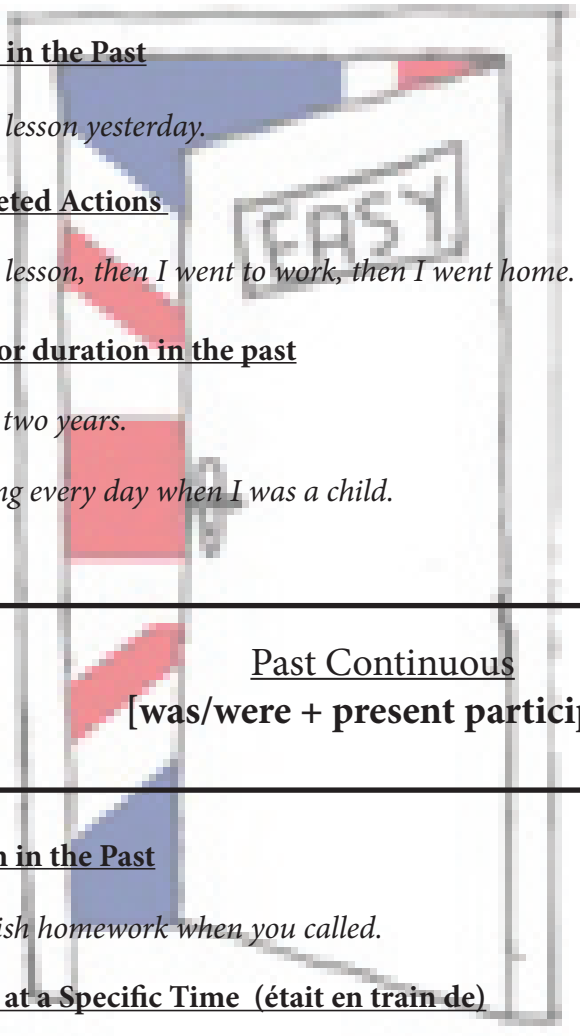
Past Tenses

Simple Past
[verb+ed] or irregular verbs



Use 1 : Completed Action in the Past

I went to my English lesson yesterday.

Use 2 : A Series of Completed Actions

I went to my English lesson, then I went to work, then I went home.

Use 3 : Habits in the Past or duration in the past

I learned English for two years.

I used to go swimming every day when I was a child.

Past Continuous
[was/were + present participle]

Use 1 : Interrupted Action in the Past

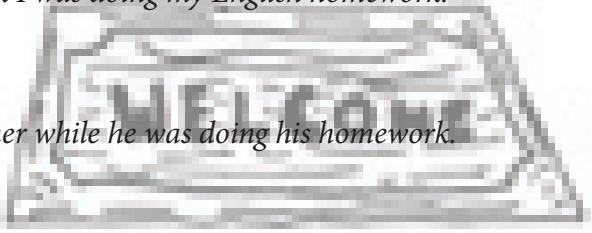
I was doing my English homework when you called.

Use 2 : Action continuing at a Specific Time (était en train de)

Last night at six o' clock I was doing my English homework.

Use 3 : Parallel Actions

I was was making dinner while he was doing his homework.



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Present Perfect

[has/have + past participle]

Use : Unspecified Time Before Now

Have you met my English teacher before?

We use the **Present Perfect** to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important. You **CANNOT** use the Present Perfect with specific time expressions such as: yesterday, one year ago, last week, when I was a child, when I lived in Japan, at that moment, that day, one day, etc. We **CAN** use the Present Perfect with unspecific expressions such as: ever, never, once, many times, several times, before, so far, already, yet, etc.

Past Perfect

[had + past participle]

You had studied English before you moved to New-York.