

GRAMMAR PRACTICE



Les 2 Prétérits

Pour raconter une histoire

- On emploie le **prétérit simple** pour relater des événements.

*Dillinger was a dangerous gangster: he **stole** money from banks and **killed** a lot of people.*

*When **did** he die?*

*He **died** in 1934. The police **didn't** catch him alive.*

*They **shot** him down.*

- On emploie le **prétérit BE + V-ing** (= Be au prétérit + forme en -ing du verbe) pour **expliquer les circonstances de ces événements, décrire une situation dans laquelle un sujet se trouvait.**

*What **were** you **doing**?*

*I **wasn't working** behind the bar, I was in the cellar, I **was looking** for bottles.*

*Plenty of people **were coming** out of the club.*

Sujet + V- **ed**

Did + Sujet + BV

Sujet **didn't** + BV

Verbes irréguliers

(liste en fin de manuel) :

Cut - cut Steal - stole

See - saw Shoot - shot

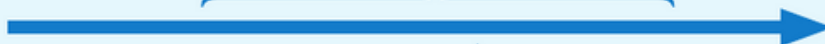
I / he / she / it **was (wasn't)** + V-ing

You / we / they **were (weren't)** + V-ing

Was I / he / she + V-ing?

Were you / we + V-ing?

People were coming out of the club



Mr Costello died

1) The policeman describes what he saw when he arrived at the Cotton Club. Complete his report with the right verb form (preterit simple ou preterit be+Ving).

The jazz band (play) *Runnin' Wild*, a lot of people
..... (dance) the Charleston. In a corner, two men
(talk). I think they (not/listen) to the music, they
..... (shout).

2) Write the verbs in the correct form to complete the story.

Police officer Dan (write) a report when somebody
..... (knock) at the door.

"Come in !" he (said).

A young girl (come) in. She (cry).

"Hey ! What's the matter young girl ?" Dan (ask).

"Someone (steal) my bike !"

"Where (it/happen) ?"

"Outside the supermarket."

"But, where (you/be) ?"

"I (shop) with my friends."

"OK, let's see..."

- Put the verbs into the correct form: preterite or preterite Be + V-ing.
= Conjugue les verbes au bon temps : prétérit simple ou prétérit Be + V-ing.

The setting

What tense do you use?

Everybody (have) fun last night: some people (dance), others (have) a drink at the bar. A usual night at the Cotton Club.

The events

What tense do you use?

Costello and Nasty Frankie (arrive) later that evening.

They (walk) into the club, and (sit) at their usual table.

Actions in their context

Actions: ; context:

This is what the characters were doing when they were suddenly interrupted.

1. A bartender (serve) drinks when suddenly a man (fall) on the dance floor.
2. Nasty Frankie (drive) in town when suddenly he (see) two cars following him.
3. Everybody (enjoy) themselves when suddenly the music (stop).
4. The detective (have) dinner when suddenly his phone (ring).
5. Mary Russell ready (get) when suddenly someone (knock) at her door.
6. The detective (read) his files when suddenly a police officer (bring) the suspects.

This is what Duke Ellington saw when he came into the bar above the Cotton Club.

1. When I (come) into the club, all my friends (dance) around the jazz band.
2. My girlfriend (be) there too, she (sing) along with the choristers.
3. She (perform) my favourite song and she (smile) at me.
4. We (walk) to the dance floor and we (start) to dance.
5. We (have) a really good time when we (hear) police sirens.

The bartender described the atmosphere in the club before the crime.

1. Mary (sing) Costello's favourite song when two men (start) fighting.
2. The bartender (serve) customers when Nasty Frankie (get up) and (walk) towards the men.
3. Duke Ellington (still / play) when Nasty Frankie (pull) his gun out and politely (ask) them to get out.