

The Past Tense – Simple and Progressive Forms

When we write about things that happened **in the past**, we can show this by using the **simple past** verb form.

The kangaroo **jumped** over the fence.

Often we add -ed to the end of the verb.
Other verbs take different forms to show past tense.

The kangaroo **ate** some grass.



To show that the past action was in progress for **a period of time**, or at the **same time as something else**, we can use the **past progressive** form.



The baby koala **was holding** on tightly while its mother climbed the tree.

The koalas **were eating** leaves from the tree.

The baby held onto her mother for a while – it takes time to climb a tree.
The koalas may not have finished eating leaves.

To write in the **past progressive** form we use helping verbs (**was** or **were**) and add **-ing** to the base verb.

The cockatoo **was flapping** its wings in the sunshine.

The cockatoo **was cracking** seeds open with its beak.

The birds **were squabbling** in the trees.

