

Past Time

Statement of Fact

1. Simple Past

When I was a child, we spent every summer at my grandmother's house.

The woman couldn't stand her husband's driving.

The woman happened to have the right change for the ticket.

Whose book was that?

I just missed the bus. It left on the half hour.

2. Would = stresses repetition in the past

We would go swimming (stresses repetition) after lunch and then we would take a long nap.

They would visit their uncle every holiday (in spite of the fact that they weren't fond of him.)

3. Used to = stresses that you don't do it any more.

I used to swim whenever I had the chance (stresses that you don't do it any more).

I used to be a factory worker, (but now I do something else for a living.)

When I was a child, I used to go to the library on Saturdays and read for hours.

Example

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I used to complain about it, but the place where my mother worked had a piano, so I would help her for a while and then I would play the piano for a while. Of course, I didn't know how to play piano, so that wasn't much fun for my mother, but she would listen and not stop me.