

Past tenses

• Past Simple & Past Continuous

- 1 a) Read the text below. Underline the verbs in the *past simple* and circle the verbs in the *past continuous*. Which *past simple* verbs are *regular*? Which are *irregular*?

Myths ...



The Riddle of the Sphinx

A long time ago in ancient Greece, so the story goes, a creature called the Sphinx sat on a big rock outside the city of Thebes. The Sphinx was a very strange creature. She had the body of a lion, the wings of a bird and the head of a woman. The Sphinx was also a very bad creature. When someone walked past her, she asked them a riddle: "What walks on 4 legs in the morning, 2 legs in the afternoon, and 3 legs in the evening?" The sphinx killed any person who didn't know the answer to her riddle. The city of Thebes was like a prison. No one wanted to enter or leave the city because they had to walk past the Sphinx. One day, a young man called Oedipus 1) **was travelling** through Greece. He 2) **was entering** the city of Thebes when the Sphinx stopped him and asked him

her riddle. 3) While Oedipus **was thinking**, the Sphinx **was laughing** to herself. "He doesn't know the answer!" she thought. But Oedipus was a very clever man. He thought for a moment, smiled and said "The answer to your riddle is: A man. A man crawls when he is a baby, walks on two feet when he is an adult, and walks with a cane when he is old." The Sphinx was so angry that Oedipus knew the answer that 4) **she jumped off her rock, fell to the ground, and died**. When the people of Thebes heard that the Sphinx was dead they all cheered. They were so happy that they 5) **made** Oedipus their king.

2 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*.

- 1 Last year we (travel) to Germany on holiday.
- 2 Anna (drink) tea at four o'clock yesterday afternoon.
- 3 Jane (study) while her brother (listen) to music.
- 4 Sam (pat) the dog when it (bite) him.
- 5 What (you/do) when the fire started?

3 Underline the correct item.

- 1 Emma **had/was having** a barbecue at her house last Sunday.
- 2 Dylan **was taking/talked** on the phone while Claire **was cooking/cooked** dinner.
- 3 James **was working/worked** in his garden all day yesterday.
- 4 Keith **was walking/walked** down the street when it **started/was starting** to snow.
- 5 Pablo Picasso **painting/was painting** lots of beautiful pictures.
- 6 Joe **didn't come/wasn't coming** to work yesterday.