

## Simple Past: Versus Past Continuous

*Choose either SIMPLE PAST or PAST CONTINUOUS for the verbs in the brackets.*

Santa Claus is an important character in North American culture. He is a round and jolly man. He has white hair and a white beard. He wears a red and white suit and hat. He gives gifts to children at Christmas time, but he only gives gifts to children who are good. So parents use Santa Claus all year to make sure their children behave.

An author named Clement Clarke Moore \_\_\_\_\_ (create) this modern Santa Claus. Clement was born in 1779 in New York. As an adult, he \_\_\_\_\_ (study) languages and \_\_\_\_\_ (write) poems. He \_\_\_\_\_ (wrote) a poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas” while he \_\_\_\_\_ (ride) in a sleigh on Christmas Eve in 1822. When he \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) home, he \_\_\_\_\_ (read) the poem to his six children. The poem \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) a story about St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a sleigh and reindeer. He \_\_\_\_\_ (can) fly. He \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) houses at night and \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) presents. While their father \_\_\_\_\_ (read) the poem, his children \_\_\_\_\_ (imagine) the jolly, funny St. Nicholas. They \_\_\_\_\_ (love) the story.

The next Christmas, in 1823, a friend \_\_\_\_\_ (give) the poem to the local newspaper. They \_\_\_\_\_ (publish) the story. Suddenly, in New York, everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) about “A Visit from St. Nicholas”. They \_\_\_\_\_ (imagine) the round, jolly man, in his red suit. They \_\_\_\_\_ (imagine) the flying reindeer. They \_\_\_\_\_ (imagine) the presents in the stockings. The story of St. Nicholas, with his sleigh and reindeer, \_\_\_\_\_ (spread) across the United States and around the world. The modern Santa Claus was born. Children today believe that he watches them all year to make sure they are good!