Past simple and Past continuous

WHEN / WHILE

- **'While'** is used to express two continuous actions happening at the same time.
  Example: ***While you were sleeping, I was doing the housework.***

- **'When'** is used to express an action that happened in the course of another action.
  Example: ***When we were in the city center, we went to nice restaurants.***

- **'While' or 'When'** is used when a continuous long action is interrupted by a short action.
  Example: ***while I was doing homework , my mother knocked at the door.***
  I was doing homework , when my mother knocked at the door.

- **'When'** is used to express an action that happened immediately after another action.
  Example: When Joe shouted at Tina, she left him in the cafe and went away.

1. Fill in the blanks with 'WHEN' or 'WHILE'

1. _____ my father was reading a book , my mother was looking at the family album.
2. I was having a shower, _____ my friend broke my mother's favourite vase.
3. _____ the teacher came into the classroom, some students were arguing with each other.
4. I arrived home, _____ all the guests were having tea and biscuits.
5. _____ she was a little girl , she visited her relatives with her mother.
6. I liked working in group and pairs, _____ I was a secondary school student.
7. _____ Sue was waiting for the 12 o'clock train, she met an old friend.
8. The Pearsons were having a large breakfast, _____ the doorbell rang.
9. My father was waiting in the car, _____ my mother was doing shopping.
10. What were you doing _____ the teacher looked at you suddenly.

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11. _____ the train left , Thomas was rushing to the station.
12. The electricity went off , _____ we were watching a horror film.
13. _____ Mathew was going to the library , he saw a car accident on Mapple Street.
14. The baby boy started crying , _____ his mother was combing her hair.
15. _____ the mother was doing the washing up , the twins were sweeping the floor.
16. The sun was rising , _____ we reached the summit of the mountain.
17. _____ Susan entered the living room , everybody began singing 'Happy Birthday'.
18. Mr.Robinson fell off the tree _____ he was looking at the little bird's nest.

2. Complete the sentences with 'Past Simple' or 'Past Continuous' using the verbs in brackets

1. Mr. Thompson _____ (drive) very fast when he hit a tree.
2. Jack _____ (milk) the cows when a stranger came into the barn.
3. Susan _____ (see) the burglar while he was rushing into his car.
4. My uncle _____ (listen) to the radio when the earthquake happened.
5. The old lady was trying to cross the street when a boy _____ (offer) help.
6. All the children _____ (sleep) when their father opened the front door.
7. While Mr.Triump _____ (fix) the television , he fell asleep.
8. Tina was playing with her dolls when her brother _____ (finish) his homework.
9. I was working on the Science project when you _____ (come) into the room with a big chocolate cake in your hand.

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10. The children _____ (play) tennis when their grandmother called them for lunch.

11. Jack and Steven _____ (have dinner) when the heard a strange noise.

12. My brother was tidying the bookcase while I _____ (make) the beds.

13. .What _____ (you do) when your father came home from work?

14. Who _____ (speak) while the teacher was introducing the new subject?

15. I suddenly _____ (fall down) while I was running away from the monster in my dream.I _____ (shout) when it caught my hand.

16. Mary _____ (look) out of the window when it started raining.

LIVEWORKSHEETS