

SIMPLE PAST AND PAST CONTINUOUS

Simple past	Past continuous
We use the simple past to talk about: Completed actions, habits and facts in the past. Example: • I went to the cinema yesterday. • I always visited my grandparents in my summer holidays when I was little. • I lived near Liverpool for a couple of years.	The past continuous is used to express: Interrupted actions, specific time as an interruption and parallel actions. Example: • I was watching TV when the phone rang. • Last night at 7 p.m, I was having dinner. • While she was doing her homework, her brother was playing football.

Complete the sentences with past simple or continuous

1. We _____ (cycle) when the rain _____ (start).
2. He _____ (break) the vase while he _____ (play) ball at home.
3. My mom _____ (come) in while I _____ (surf) on the net.
4. The electricity _____ (go off) as I _____ (bake) a cake.
5. Sandra _____ (catch) when her sister _____ (fall) down the stairs.
6. I _____ (play) golf when it _____ (begin) to rain.
7. While she _____ (read) a novel, her sister _____ (turn on) the CD player.
8. They _____ (walk) along the beach when they _____ (see) the accident.
9. We _____ (study) when we _____ (hear) a terrible noise.
10. While she _____ (do) the ironing, her husband _____ (set) the table.
11. We _____ (dance) when he _____ (faint).
12. When he _____ (fall) down the tree, he _____ (break) his leg.
13. I _____ (be) shocked when I _____ (hear) the bad news.
14. She _____ (cry) when I _____ (see) her.
15. My parents _____ (sit) in the garden while we _____ (play) badminton.
16. Bob _____ (lie) in the garden when it _____ (start) to rain.
17. As I _____ (put) the baby to bed, the phone _____ (ring).
18. What _____ you _____ (do) when Dan _____ (fall)?
19. How _____ you _____ (break) the window?
20. I _____ (write) an e-mail when the postman _____ (deliver) his letter!
21. When I _____ (leave) home yesterday, some dogs _____ (sit) near the front gate.
22. John _____ (not swim) at four o'clock. He _____ (play) football.

23. While I _____ (swim) in the river, I _____ (see) some frogs.
24. Jim _____ (not pay) attention when he _____ (drive) his car into a tree.
25. What _____ you _____ (do) while she _____ (sleep)?

Complete the sentences with *while* or *when*.

1. We were playing basketball _____ it began to rain.
2. The dog was barking _____ we were sleeping.
3. I was watching TV _____ she called.
4. _____ the phone rang, she was writing a letter.
5. _____ we were having the picnic, it started to rain.
6. What were you doing _____ the earthquake started?
7. You were not listening to me _____ I told you to turn the oven off.
8. _____ John was sleeping last night, someone stole his car.
9. I was just getting into the bath _____ the telephone rang.
10. Were you listening _____ he was talking?
11. _____ Ellen was reading, Tim was watching television.
12. _____ she came home from school she really didn't look well