

# Past Simple and Past Continuous

I. Use the words in the box to complete the uses for Past Simple and Past Continuous

PARALLEL

FINISHED

IN PROGRESS

INTERRUPTED

EXPERIENCES

SERIES

## Past Simple

1) Actions which started in the past and \_\_\_\_\_ in the past

Last weekend, mum **COOKED** a tasty meal for the family.

2) Past \_\_\_\_\_

When she was young, she **WORKED** as a nurse at the hospital.

3) A \_\_\_\_\_ of past actions that happened one after another.

Dad **ATE** breakfast, **GOT** dressed, **SAID** goodbye, then **DROVE** to work.

## Time Words

THREE HOURS AGO

LAST WEEK / MONTH / YEAR

YESTERDAY

IN 2005

## Past Continuous

1) Actions which were \_\_\_\_\_ at a specific time in the past

Yesterday at 2 o'clock, mum **WAS COOKING** a tasty meal for the family.

2) A long action \_\_\_\_\_ by a short action in the past

I **WAS WORKING** in the yard when it started to rain.

3) Two actions happening at the same time or in \_\_\_\_\_ in the past

Dad **WAS EATING** while mum **WAS CLEANING** the kitchen.

## Time Words

YESTERDAY AT 3 O'CLOCK

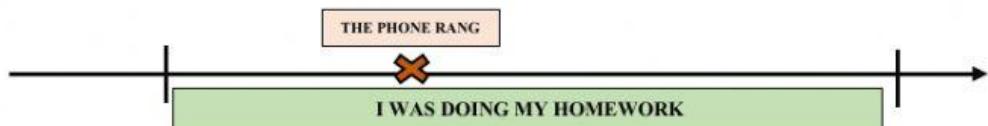
THIS TIME TWO DAYS AGO

AT HALF PAST FIVE LAST MONDAY

II. Look at the sentences below and answer the questions:

**I was doing** my homework **when** the phone **rang**.

**While** I **was doing** my homework, the phone **rang**.



1) Do these sentences mean the same thing? YES / NO

1) Which action is longer? WAS DOING / RANG

2) Which action is shorter? WAS DOING / RANG

3) What tense do we use for the longer action? PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS

4) What tense do we use for the short action? PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS

5) What word introduces the short action? WHEN / WHILE

6) What word introduces the long action? WHEN / WHILE

We use Past Simple and Past Continuous together when we want to show that a long action was interrupted by a short action in the past

**WHILE** → followed by **Past Continuous**

**WHEN** → followed by **Past Simple**

**While** I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) dinner, I \_\_\_\_\_ (cut) my finger.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) dinner **when** I \_\_\_\_\_ (cut) my finger.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (break) a vase **while** I \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the living room.

**While** I \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the living room, I \_\_\_\_\_ (break) a vase.

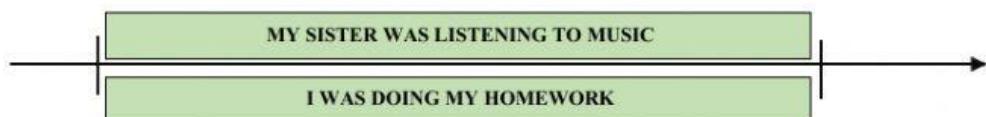
**When** I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) you on the street, you \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) your dog.

You \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) your dog **when** I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) you on the street.

III. Look at the sentences below and answer the questions:

**I was doing my homework while my sister was listening to music.**

**While I was doing homework, my sister was listening to music.**



- 1) Do these sentences mean the same thing? YES / NO
- 2) Were these actions happening at the same time? YES / NO
- 3) What tense do we use for both these actions? PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS
- 4) What word shows that the actions were happening at the same time? WHEN / WHILE

**When we want to say that two actions were happening at the same time in the past, we use Past Continuous for both actions.**

**Past Continuous**

**WHILE**

**Past Continuous**

**While** I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) dinner, my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (set) the table.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) dinner **while** my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (set) the table.

My dog \_\_\_\_\_ (play) outside **while** I \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to music.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to music **while** my dog \_\_\_\_\_ (play) outside.

**While** he \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) on the street, the dog \_\_\_\_\_ (sniff) around..

The dog \_\_\_\_\_ (sniff) around **while** he \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) on the street.