

THE PAST SIMPLE & THE PAST CONTINUOUS

I. Complete the sentences, putting the verbs into the past continuous or past simple:

1. When the postman (come) _____, I (have) _____ breakfast
2. My sister (wash) _____ dishes while I (work) _____ in the garden
3. While I (talk) _____ to John, the telephone (ring) _____
4. Mr. Taylor (watch) _____ television while his wife (read) _____ a newspaper
5. When I (leave) _____ the house this morning, It (rain) _____ very hard
6. John (talk) _____ to his friends when I (see) _____ him
7. I (see) _____ a bad accident while I (wait) _____ for you in this corner
8. As we (cross) _____ the street, the policeman (shout) _____ at us
9. That tourist (lose) _____ his camera while he (walk) _____ around the city
10. It (snow) _____ when I (get) _____ up this morning
11. Albert Einstein (die) _____ in 1955
12. Tom (go) _____ to the post office twice yesterday.
13. He (fall) _____ while he (go) _____ down the stairs
14. What _____ she (do) when you (arrive) _____ there? She (write) _____ a letter
15. She (have) _____ her bath while her sister (get) _____ the breakfast ready
16. I (go) _____ to ask you to help me, but you (sleep) _____ so peacefully when I (look) _____ into your room that I (decide) _____ to do it alone
17. I (look) _____ up at the sky, dark clouds (gather) _____
18. Just as I (write) _____ the letter, the inkpot (fall) _____ over
19. Mr. Nam (cook) _____ dinner when we (arrive) _____
20. What _____ (you/do) when I (telephone) _____ you last night?

II. Complete the sentences, putting the verbs into the correct tenses:

1. I (get) _____ hungry. Let's go and have something to eat
2. Be quiet! I (want) _____ to hear the news broadcast
3. What _____ you (do) yesterday?
I (get) _____ up very early, (have) _____ my breakfast and then I (go) _____ to my office
4. Egypt (produce) _____ some of the finest cotton in the world
5. What _____ she (do) when you (arrive) _____ at her house yesterday morning?
She (cook) _____ her breakfast in the kitchen
6. What _____ you usually (read) when you (be) _____ on holiday?
I (read) _____ detective stories. Now I (read) _____ "The Shut door" by Ivor Lock
7. Ann (wait) _____ for me when I (arrive) _____
8. Mary (usually/phone) _____ me on Fridays but She (not phone) _____ last Friday
9. What's the noise? What (happen) _____ ?
10. Yesterday evening, the phone (ring) _____ three times while we (have) _____ dinner
11. Why are you under the table? You (look) _____ for something?
12. _____ You (watch) TV last night? No, I (have) _____ supper and (go) _____ straight to bed
13. I (not like) _____ staying at hotels, but last summer, we (spend) _____ a few days at a very nice hotel by the sea.

14. Linda (be) _____ busy when we (go) _____ to see her yesterday. She (study) _____ for an exam. We (not want) _____ to disturb her, so we (not stay) _____ very long
15. When I first (tell) _____ Tom the news, he (not believe) _____ me. He (think) _____ that I (joke) _____
16. We usually (go) _____ to Spain on holiday, but this year we (go) _____ to France
17. We can go out now. It (not rain) _____ any more
18. The sun (warm) _____ the air and (give) _____ us light
19. What speed _____ the car (do) at the time of the accident?
20. They (study) _____ in the library when the fire alarm (go) _____ off

III. Circle the best option to complete each sentence:

1. She usually _____ two hours a day
a. work b. is working c. works d. working
2. Don't make noise. My mother _____ with her friends
a. is talking b. was talking c. talks d. talked
3. Listen! They _____ about the exhibition . Let's join them
a. talk b. talked c. are talking d. have talked
4. Where _____ your sister born?
a. were b. was c. did d. is
5. We _____ have white wine, but we _____ red wine
a. didn't/had b. don't/had c. did/didn't d. didn't/have
6. When did you _____ see him?
a. recently b. already c. last d. lately
7. I _____ a bath when the phone rang
a. was having b. had c. am having d. have
8. I _____ her two week ago
a. seen b. was seeing c. saw d. have seen
9. I _____ to his house in 1991
a. moved b. have been movingc. have moved d. was moving
10. He came into the room while they _____ television
a. have watched b. watched c. were watching d. have been watching
11. I fell asleep when I _____ television
a. am watching b. am being watchedc. was watching d. All are correct
12. They _____ last week
a. didn't come b. came not c. don't come d. did come
13. Where are Geoff and Anne? _____ in the garden
a. They're sitting b. They sitting c. There sitting d. They're siting
14. It's very cold today and _____
a. It's snowing b. it snows c. its snowing d. it snowing
15. She goes to the library twice a week. She _____ read books there
a. never b. usually c. rarely d. once
16. At nine o'clock yesterday morning, we _____ for the bus
a. are waiting b. waited c. were waiting d. was waiting

17. Tom _____ his hand when he was cooking the dinner
 a. burnt b. was burning c. has burnt d. had burnt
18. He _____ me every Sunday, and we often go fishing together
 a. came to see b. comes to see c. will be coming to see. All answer are correct
19. The phone rang while she _____ dinner
 a. cooks b. was cooking c. is cooking d. has cooked
20. My sister _____ trouble with her motobike now, so she has to take the bus to work
 a. have b. is having c. was having d. had
21. When my mum got home, _____
 a. the dinner be cooked b. I was cooking dinner
 c. I am cooking dinner d. the dinner deing cooked
22. Emma and Katie usually _____ their grandmother at weekends
 a. have visited b. visits c. visit d. are visiting
23. Peter was reading a book by Mark Twain _____ his friends came
 a. while b. when c. during d. if
24. Look! That boy _____ an elephant over there
 a. fed b. was feeding c. feeds d. is feeding
25. He _____ in London at the moment
 a. studies b. has studied c. is studying d. will study