

The Past Progressive and Simple Past

When English uses the past progressive and the simple past together, the past progressive describes **a longer, background action**, and the past simple describes **a shorter action that interrupts the background action**.

Example: Claudia **was walking** her dog when her friend **called**.
I **heard** the news as I **was driving** over here.

Choose the correct form of each verb to complete each sentence.

- 1) Tommy and Billy **(climb)** _____ trees when Billy **(fall)** _____ and **(break)** _____ his leg.
- 2) At the beach, we **(swim)** _____ when it **(start)** _____ to rain.
- 3) Jody **(see)** _____ her friend Bob while she **(shop)** _____ last Saturday.
- 4) We **(eat)** _____ dinner when we **(hear)** _____ the phone ring.
- 5) Mark's cat **(claw)** _____ him while he **(pet)** _____ it yesterday.

Write the correct form of each verb in each box.

- 6) They **(sit)** _____ on the park bench when the bird **(land)** _____ in front of them.
- 7) I **(lose)** _____ my watch when I **(swim)** _____ in the sea.
- 8) Luisa **(clean)** _____ her house when she **(see)** _____ the spider.
- 9) Cody **(fall)** _____ asleep last night as we **(watch)** _____ the movie.
- 10) Susanna **(cook)** _____ dinner when she **(burn)** _____ her hand.

Your turn! Make some sentences using both the past progressive and simple past tenses.

- 11) _____
- 12) _____
- 13) _____
- 14) _____
- 15) _____