

3. PAST SIMPLE & PAST CONTINUOUS WITH WHEN – WHILE

Past simple: S + V-ed/V2 (for a past action which interrupted it)

Past continuous: S + was/were + V-ing. (for a past action in progress (longer action))

When S + V-ed/V2, S + was/were + V-ing.

While S + was/were + V-ing, S + V-ed/V2.

S + was/were + V-ing when S + V-ed/V2.

S + V-ed/V2 while S + was/were + V-ing.

PRACTICE

Choose the best answers to complete the sentences.

1. While we _____ information for our presentation last month, we discovered that lots of people in our neighborhood needed help.

A. were collecting B. are collecting C. collect D. collected

2. When we visited Mrs Lan this morning, she _____ her lunch.

A. is preparing B. was preparing C. has prepared D. prepares

3. She told us her life story while we _____ her tidy the house.

A. are helping B. have helped C. were helping D. help

4. While we were cleaning her kitchen, we _____ a knock at the door. It was another old lady who lived next door.

A. are hearing B. were hearing C. hear D. heard

5. We _____ to help old people clean their houses while we were talking to them later that day.

A. are deciding B. were deciding C. decided D. decide

6. While we _____ at the food bank, we met an old friend.

A. were helping B. are helping C. help D. helped

7. An old lady came to us and asked for help while we _____ at the bus stop.

A. are waiting B. have waited C. were waiting D. wait

8. When we came to the local orphanage, all the children there _____ their dinner.

A. are having B. were having C. have had D. have

9. While Lan (work) _____ as a volunteer in the countryside, she met an old friend.

A. is working B. was working C. have worked D. worked

10. An old lady came to us and asked for help while we _____ at the bus stop.

A. are waiting B. were wating C. wait D. waited