

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 waiting C. wait D. waited