

# PAST SIMPLE VS PAST CONTINUOUS

## Intermediate level

By Ms. Thu

	(Past Simple)	(Past Continuous)
Statement	S + V-ed/ VpI + O He went to school late yesterday.	S + was/were + V-ing + O I was playing video games when my friend dropped by.
Negative	S + didn't + V-inf + O I didn't finish the Maths test yesterday.	S + wasn't/ weren't + V-ing + O She was doing homework when I entered her room.
Yes/ No question	Did+ S + V-inf + O? Did you visit Da Nang last summer?	Was/ Were + S + V-ing + O? Was you cooking when the guests came?
"Wh" question	Wh + did + S + V-inf +...? What did you do last summer?	Wh + S + was/were + V-ing +...? What was you doing at 10 p.m last night?

### Exercise 1: Give the correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets

1. Susan \_\_\_\_\_ (study) in her room when she heard the noise.
2. What \_\_\_\_\_ (they, do) at eleven p.m. last night - it was so noisy?
3. I was eight years old when my elder sister \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) me how to ride a bike.
4. John \_\_\_\_\_ (not go) to school last week because he was ill.
5. I didn't know anything about the plane crash in my neighborhood because I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) inside at that time.
6. Yesterday at 9.30 p.m my parents \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in the garden \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) some Coke.
7. The chambermaid \_\_\_\_\_ (make) my bed in the hotel and \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the bathroom.
8. Someone \_\_\_\_\_ (knock) on the door while \_\_\_\_\_ (read) the newspaper.
9. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a lot of books when he \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Cambridge.

10. William \_\_\_\_\_ (not meet) Sally at the airport last Sunday.
11. Jerry \_\_\_\_\_ (have) dinner when the lights \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out.
12. The girl \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) ill so she \_\_\_\_\_ (not go) to work.
13. I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) a pudding when the light \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out.
14. We suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ (realize) that we \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) in the wrong direction.
15. While I \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) someone \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) my clothes and I \_\_\_\_\_ (have to) walk to the hotel in my swimsuit.
16. The floor \_\_\_\_\_ (be) covered with balls of wool. Obviously Grandmother \_\_\_\_\_ (knit) something.
17. I \_\_\_\_\_ (find) this coin as I \_\_\_\_\_ (dig) in the garden. It looks very old.
18. When I first \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) him, he \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in a cafe.
19. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book, I \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) a knock, I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the door and \_\_\_\_\_ (open) it, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (not recognize) my friend at first because I \_\_\_\_\_ (not wear) my glasses.
20. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (come) in they \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) round the fire.

**Exercise 2: Complete this email with either the past simple or the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.**

I (1. buy) \_\_\_\_\_ a new alarm clock the other day in Taylor's the jewellers, when I actually (2. see) \_\_\_\_\_ somebody shoplifting. I'd finished paying for my clock and as I (3. turn) \_\_\_\_\_ round, an elderly woman (4. slowly put) \_\_\_\_\_ a silver plate into a bag that she (5. carry) \_\_\_\_\_. Then she (6. walk) \_\_\_\_\_ over to another part of the shop and (7. pick up) \_\_\_\_\_ an expensive-looking watch a

number of times. When she (8. think) \_\_\_\_\_ that nobody (9. look) \_\_\_\_\_, she (10. drop) \_\_\_\_\_ it into the bag. Before I (11. have) \_\_\_\_\_ a chance to tell the staff in the shop, she (12. notice) \_\_\_\_\_ that I (13. watch) \_\_\_\_\_ her and (14. hurry) \_\_\_\_\_ out. Unfortunately for her, two police officers (15. walk) \_\_\_\_\_ past just at that moment and she (16. run) \_\_\_\_\_ straight into them.

**Exercise 3: Circle the correct verb form in each of the following sentences**

1. Mary (prepared/ was preparing) lunch when they (came/ was coming)
2. The sun (shone/ was shining) brightly when I (got up/ was getting up) this morning.
3. Ann finally (told/ was telling) us the whole story about Peter
4. We (drove/ were driving) to Berlin in Robert's new car
5. Last weekend Susan (fell/ was falling) and (broke/ was breaking) her leg
6. Who was that nice girl you (talked/ were talking) to when I (walked/ was walking) by the pub?
7. When I (entered / was entering) the cafeteria Mary (had / was having) lunch with