

2-8 THE SIMPLE PAST AND THE PAST PROGRESSIVE

THE SIMPLE PAST 	(a) Mary walked downtown yesterday. (b) I slept for eight hours last night.	The SIMPLE PAST is used to talk about <i>an activity or situation that began and ended at a particular time in the past</i> (e.g., yesterday, last night, two days ago, in 1999), as in (a) and (b).
THE PAST PROGRESSIVE 	(c) I sat down at the dinner table at 6:00 P.M. yesterday. Tom came to my house at 6:10 P.M. I was eating dinner when Tom came. (d) I went to bed at 10:00. The phone rang at 11:00. I was sleeping when the phone rang.	The PAST PROGRESSIVE expresses <i>an activity that was in progress (was occurring, was happening) at a point of time in the past</i> (e.g., at 6:10) or at the time of another action (e.g., when Tom came). In (c): eating was in progress at 6:10; eating was in progress <i>when</i> Tom came. FORM: was/were + -ing.
(e) When the phone rang, I was sleeping. (f) The phone rang while I was sleeping.	when = at that time while = during that time (e) and (f) have the same meaning.	

2-9 FORMS OF THE PAST PROGRESSIVE

STATEMENT	I-She-He-It was working . You-We-They were working .
NEGATIVE	I-She-He-It was not (wasn't) working . You-We-They were not (weren't) working .
QUESTION	Was I-she-he-it working? Were you-we-they working?
SHORT ANSWER	Yes, I-she-he-it was . Yes, you-we-they were . No, I-she-he-it wasn't . No, you-we-they weren't .

Directions: Complete the sentences with the words in parentheses. Use the simple past or the past progressive.

- At 6:00 P.M., Bob sat down at the table and began to eat. At 6:05, Bob **was eating** (eat) dinner.
- While Bob _____ (eat) dinner, Ann _____ (come) through the door.
- In other words, when Ann _____ (come) through the door, Bob _____ (eat) dinner.
- Bob went to bed at 10:30. At 11:00 Bob _____ (sleep).
- While Bob _____ (sleep), the phone _____ (ring).

6. In other words, when the phone _____ (ring), Bob _____ (sleep).
7. Bob left his house at 8:00 A.M. and _____ (begin) to walk to class.
8. While he _____ (walk) to class, he _____ (see) Mrs. Smith.
9. When Bob _____ (see) Mrs. Smith, she _____ (stand) on her front porch. She _____ (hold) a broom.
10. Mrs. Smith _____ (wave) at Bob when she _____ (see) him.

Directions: Complete the sentences with the verbs in parentheses. Use the simple past, simple present, or past progressive.

1. Once upon a time, a king and his three daughters _____ (live) in a castle in a faraway land. One day while the king _____ (think) about his daughters, he _____ (have) an idea. He _____ (form) a plan for finding husbands for them.
2. When it _____ (come) time for the three daughters to marry, the king _____ (announce) his plan. He said, "I'm going to take three jewels to the fountain in the center of the village. The young men _____ (meet) together there every day. The three young men who find the jewels will become my daughters' husbands."
3. The next day, the king _____ (choose) three jewels – an emerald, a ruby, and a diamond – and _____ (take) them into the village. He _____ (hold) them in his hand and _____ (walk) among the young men. First he _____ (drop) the emerald, then the ruby, and then the diamond. A handsome man _____ (pick) up the emerald. Then a wealthy prince _____ (spot) the ruby and _____ (bend) down to pick it up. The king _____ (be) very pleased.
4. But then a frog _____ (hop) toward the diamond and _____ (pick) it up. The frog _____ (bring) the diamond to the king and said, "I _____ (be) the Frog Prince. I _____ (claim) your third daughter as my wife."

5. When the king _____ (tell) Tina, his third daughter, about the Frog Prince, she _____ (refuse) to marry him. When the people of the land _____ (hear) the news about the frog and the princess, they _____ (laugh) and _____ (laugh). "Have you heard the news?" the people _____ (say) to each other. "Princess Tina is going to marry a frog!"
6. Tina _____ (feel) terrible. She said, "I _____ (be) the unluckiest person in the world." She _____ (fall) to the floor and _____ (sob). No one _____ (love) her, she _____ (believe). Her father _____ (understand, not) her. She _____ (hide) from her friends and _____ (keep) her pain in her heart. Every day, she _____ (grow) sadder and sadder. Her two sisters _____ (have) grand weddings. Their wedding bells _____ (ring) with joy across the land.
7. Eventually, Tina _____ (leave) the castle. She _____ (run) away from her family and _____ (go) to live in the woods by herself. She _____ (eat) simple food, _____ (drink) water from the lake, _____ (cut) her own firewood, _____ (wash) her own clothes, _____ (sweep) the floor herself, _____ (make) her own bed, and _____ (take) care of all her own needs. But she _____ (be) very lonely and unhappy.
8. One day Tina _____ (go) swimming. The water _____ (be) deep and cold. Tina _____ (swim) for a long time and _____ (become) very tired. While she _____ (swim) back toward the shore, she _____ (lose) the desire to live. She _____ (quit) trying to swim to safety. She _____ (drown) when the frog suddenly _____ (appear) and with his strength _____ (push) Tina to the shore. He _____ (save) her life.
9. "Why _____ (save, you) my life, Frog?"
- "Because you _____ (be) very young and you _____ (have) a lot to live for."
- "No, I _____ (do, not)," said the princess. "I _____ (be) the most miserable person in the whole universe."

10. "Let's talk about it," _____ (say) the frog. And the _____ (begin) to talk. Tina and the Frog Prince _____ (sit) together for hours and hours. Frog _____ (listen) and _____ (understand). He _____ (tell) about himself and his own unhappiness and loneliness. They _____ (share) their minds and hearts. Day after day, they _____ (spend) hours with each other. They _____ (talk), _____ (laugh), _____ (play), and _____ (work) together.

11. One day while they _____ (sit) near the lake, Tina _____ (bend) down and, with great affection, _____ (kiss) the frog on his forehead. Poof! Suddenly the frog _____ (turn) into a man! He _____ (take) Tina in his arms, and said, "You _____ (save) me with your kiss. Outside, I _____ (look) like a frog, but you _____ (see) inside and _____ (find) the real me. Now I _____ (be) free. An evil wizard had turned me into a frog until I found the love of a woman with a truly good heart." When Tina _____ (see) through outside appearances, she _____ (find) true love.

12. Tina and the prince _____ (return) to the castle and _____ (get) married. Her two sisters, she discovered, _____ (be) very unhappy. The handsome husband _____ (ignore) his wife and _____ (talk, not) to her. The wealthy husband _____ (make) fun of his wife and _____ (give) her orders all the time. But Tina and her Frog Prince _____ (live) happily ever after.