Date: _____

Past continuous tense (3) while

Miss Choi was playing the piano **while** we were singing.

We use **while** to link two continuous actions that happened at the same time in the past.

My parents were tidying the kitchen **while** I was watering the plants.

past continuous tense

Practice ***Write sentences using 'while' and the past continuous tense. Follow the example.***

1 Joe (feed) the dog / Emma (iron) the clothes
Joe was feeding the dog **while** Emma was ironing the clothes.

2 The girls (dance) / their parents (chat)

_____

3 Brian (wait) in the clinic / I (walk) home

_____

4 Pat and I (play) tennis / Ethan (skip)

_____

5 Mrs Moore (take) a nap / her dog (play)

_____

6 we (have) a party at home / Dad (work) in the office

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Date: _____

Past continuous tense (4) while • when

A young lady was going to work this morning **when** her car crashed into a tree. She was talking on her mobile phone **while** she was driving.

We usually use **while** to link two continuous actions that happened at the same time in the past.

I was chatting with Anna **while** I was walking the dog.

We usually use **when** to link one longer action and one shorter action in the past.
We can also use **when** to link two short actions.

I was walking the dog **when** I saw a famous singer.
a longer action — a shorter action

He smiled **when** I saw him.
short actions

Grammar in Context

Complete the blog entry using 'while', 'when' and the simple past tense or the past continuous tense form of the verbs given.

Erica's blog

A Fun Day

18th December 20XX

We had a talent show at school today. It was great!

The Dance Club did a show for us. Some girls

❶ _____ (dance) ❷ _____ a little boy walked onto the stage. He wanted to join in! The little boy

❸ _____ (dance) ❹ _____

the girls ❺ _____ (walk) down the stage. It was really funny!

Then it was my turn. I did some magic tricks. I ❻ _____

(speak) to the audience ❼ _____ I ❽ _____ (drop) my magic wand! I picked it up quickly and pretended it was part of my act. I don't think anyone even noticed!

LIVEWORKSHEETS