

PAST SIMPLE OR PAST CONTINUOUS (WHAT 'S THE DIFFERENCE?)



I. Complete the sentences using the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs.

1. They _____ (swim) across the river when the boat arrived.
2. Ian _____ (not listen) when the teacher _____ (ask) him a question.
3. You _____ (not look) at the road when you _____ (fall) off your bike.
4. They _____ (drive) when the storm _____ (start).
5. I _____ (see) a famous actor near the theatre. He _____ (wear) sunglasses.

II. Choose the correct word or phrase.

1. While I washed/ was washing my hair, the phone ringed/rang.
2. How did you feel/ did you feel yesterday?
3. When I reached/ was reaching home I received/was receiving David's phone call.
4. Last summer I was going swimming/ went swimming every weekend.
5. When the dog bit/was biting Laura's leg, she screamed/ was screaming.
6. We sang/sung some songs and then ate/ eat some sandwiches.
7. When you fell/ felt over the cliff, what happened/ was happening next?
8. While Mary washed-up/ was washing-up she broke/ was breaking a cup.
9. I didn't see/didn't saw where the bus-stop was, so I was missing/ missed the bus.
10. What did you do/ were you doing when I phoned/ was phoning you last night. There was no reply.

III. Put the verbs in the brackets either into past simple or past continuous.

1. When Harry _____ (wake up), we _____ (tell) him good news.
2. Where _____ (you leave) your wallet when you _____ (go) swimming?
3. Everyone _____ (wait) for the concert to start when a message _____ (arrive).
4. When Tom _____ (finish) his letter, he _____ (take) it to the post office.
5. Pam _____ (want) a relaxing holiday, so she _____ (choose) to stay on a small island.
6. When I _____ (study) abroad, my parents _____ (phone) me every day.
7. I _____ (find) my lost pen while I _____ (look for) my pencil sharpener.
8. Ann _____ (watch) television when Julie _____ (arrive).
9. When the lights _____ (go out), I _____ (lie) in the bed reading.
10. What _____ (you do) when I _____ (knock) on the door?