

EXERCISES ON PAST TENSES

I. Choose the correct tense for these following sentences below (either simple past tense or past continuous tense)

1. Alice **saw/ was seeing** the accident when she was catching the bus.
2. What **were you doing/ did you do** when I called?
3. I **didn't visit/ weren't visiting** my friends last summer holiday.
4. It **rained/ was raining** heavily last July.
5. While people were talking to each other, he **read/ was reading** his book.
6. My sister **was eating/ ate** hamburgers every weekend last month.
7. While we **were running/ ran** in the park, Mary fell over.
8. **Did you find/ Were you finding** your keys yesterday?
9. Who **was she dancing/ did she dance** with at the party last night?
10. They **were watching/ watched** football on TV at 7 p.m. yesterday.

II. Error recognition (Underline the the mistakes and correct it)

1. I was play football when she called me.
2. Was you study Math at 5 p.m. yesterday?
3. What was she do while her mother was making lunch?
4. Where did you went last Sunday?
5. They weren't sleep during the meeting last Monday.
6. He got up early and have breakfast with his family yesterday morning.
7. She didn't broke the flower vase. Tom did.
8. Last week my friend and I go to the beach on the bus.
9. While I am listening to music, I heard the doorbell.
10. Peter turn on the TV, but there was nothing interesting.

III. Put the verbs into the correct form, past progressive or past simple.

1. When Martin It _____ (arrive) home, Ann _____ (talk) to someone on the phone.
2. It _____ (be) cold when we _____ (leave) the house that day, and a light snow _____ (fall).
3. I _____ (call) Roger at nine last night, but he _____ (not/ be) at home. He _____ (study) at the library.
4. I _____ (see) Sue in town yesterday but she _____ (not/ see) me. She _____ (look) the other way.
5. When I _____ (open) the cupboard door, a pile of books _____ (fall) out.
6. A: How _____ (you/ break) your arm?
B: I _____ (slip) on the ice while I _____ (cross) the street in front of the dorm.
7. A: What _____ (you/ do) this time yesterday?
B: We _____ (drive) to London, but on the way we _____ (hear) about a bomb scare in Oxford Street. So we _____ (drive) back home straightaway.

[GRAMMAR - PAST TENSES]

8. I _____ (meet) Tom and Ann at the airport a few weeks ago. They _____ (go) to Berlin and I _____ (go) to Madrid. We _____ (have) a chat while we _____ (wait) for our flights.
9. I _____ (cycle) home yesterday when suddenly a man _____ (step) out into the road in front of me. I _____ (go) quite fast but luckily I _____ (manage) to stop in time and _____ (not/ hit) him.
10. Flight 2001 _____ (fly) from London to New York when it suddenly _____ (encounter) turbulence and _____ (drop) 15,000 feet. The plane _____ (carry) over 300 passengers and a crew of 17.

IV. Use the words given to make sentences. Do not change the order of the words. Use only the past simple or the past progressive.

1. when Don/ arrive/ we/ have/ coffee

2. he/ sit down/ on a chair/ while/ I/ paint/ it

3. the students/ play/ a game/ when/ professor/ arrive

4. Felix/ phone/ the fire brigade/ when the cooker/ catch/ fire

5. while/ he/ walk/ in the mountains/ Henry/ see/ a bear

6. when the starter/ fire/ his pistol/ the race/ begin

7. I/ walk/ home/ when it/ start/ to rain

8. when/ Margaret/ open/ the door/ the phone/ ring

9. he/ sit/ in the garden/ when/ a wasp/ sting/ him/ on the nose

10. while/ he/ run/ for a bus/ he/ collide/ with a lamp post

11. Vicky/ have/ a beautiful dream/ when/ the alarm clock/ ring

12. when/ Alex/ see/ the question/ he/ know/ the answer/ immediately

13. the train/ wait/ when/ we/ arrive/ at the station

14. Sarah/ have/ an electric shock/ when/ she/ touch/ the wire
