

# Extra practice: past simple and past continuous

## 1. Go over the grammar rule for the past simple and continuous

We use **Past Progressive** to talk about long actions in the past.

We use **Past Simple** to talk about short events that happened during, or interrupted, the longer action.

I **was sitting** in the shade of the tree when one woman **stopped** and **looked** at me.

We use **while** before the longer action:

**While** the archeologists were excavating the site, they found a hidden chamber.

We use **when** to introduce the shorter action:

The kids were playing on the beach **when** the storm started.

We never use **when** and **while** in the same sentence.

## 2. *While* or *when*? Read the sentences and choose the right option

1. The teacher was explaining grammar rules \_\_\_\_\_ Martina arrived.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ we were getting ready to go, the bell rang.
3. I was talking \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher was explaining the new vocabulary :O
4. \_\_\_\_\_ my classmates broke the glass, I was washing my hands in the bathroom.
5. I was studying \_\_\_\_\_ my mum arrived home.

## 3. Now, read the sentences and fill in the blanks with the right form of the verbs

1. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football when it \_\_\_\_\_ (start) raining.
2. While I \_\_\_\_\_ (do) the test, a bird \_\_\_\_\_ (get) inside the classroom.
3. My friends and I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) when you \_\_\_\_\_ (phone).
4. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ (not work) when I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) home.
5. The delivery girl \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) while I \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep).

## 4. Your turn! Write two more sentences.

Use "when" in one of them and "while" in the other. Be creative!!