

Past Simple and Past Continuous

I. Use the words in the box to complete the uses for Past Simple and Past Continuous

PARALLEL	FINISHED	IN PROGRESS
INTERRUPTED	EXPERIENCES	SERIES

Past Simple

1) Actions which started in the past and _____ in the past

Last weekend, mum COOKED a tasty meal for the family.

2) Past _____

When she was young, she WORKED as a nurse at the hospital.

3) A _____ of past actions that happened one after another.

Dad ATE breakfast, GOT dressed, SAID goodbye, then DROVE to work.

Time Words

THREE HOURS AGO

LAST WEEK / MONTH / YEAR

YESTERDAY

IN 2005

Past Continuous

1) Actions which were _____ at a specific time in the past

Yesterday at 2 o'clock, mum WAS COOKING a tasty meal for the family.

2) A long action _____ by a short action in the past

I WAS WORKING in the yard when it started to rain.

3) Two actions happening at the same time or in _____ in the past

Dad WAS EATING while mum WAS CLEANING the kitchen.

Time Words

YESTERDAY AT 3 O'CLOCK

THIS TIME TWO DAYS AGO

AT HALF PAST FIVE LAST MONDAY

II. Look at the sentences below and answer the questions:

I was doing my homework when the phone rang.

While I was doing my homework, the phone rang.



- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1) Do these sentences mean the same thing? | YES / NO |
| 1) Which action is longer? | WAS DOING / RANG |
| 2) Which action is shorter? | WAS DOING / RANG |
| 3) What tense do we use for the longer action? | PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS |
| 4) What tense do we use for the short action? | PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS |
| 5) What word introduces the short action? | WHEN / WHILE |
| 6) What word introduces the long action? | WHEN / WHILE |

We use **Past Simple and Past Continuous** together when we want to show that a long action was *interrupted* by a short action in the past

WHILE → followed by **Past Continuous**

WHEN → followed by **Past Simple**

While I _____ (make) dinner, I _____ (cut) my finger.

I _____ (make) dinner when I _____ (cut) my finger.

I _____ (break) a vase while I _____ (clean) the living room.

While I _____ (clean) the living room, I _____ (break) a vase.

When I _____ (see) you on the street, you _____ (walk) your dog.

You _____ (walk) your dog when I _____ (see) you on the street.

III. Look at the sentences below and answer the questions:

I was doing my homework while my sister was listening to music.

While I was doing homework, my sister was listening to music.



1) Do these sentences mean the same thing?

YES / NO

2) Were these actions happening at the same time?

YES / NO

3) What tense do we use for both these actions?

PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS

4) What word shows that the actions were happening
at the same time?

WHEN / WHILE

When we want to say that two actions were happening at the same time in the past, we use Past Continuous for both actions.

Past Continuous

WHILE

Past Continuous

While I _____ (make) dinner, my brother _____ (set) the table.

I _____ (make) dinner **while** my brother _____ (set) the table.

My dog _____ (play) outside **while** I _____ (listen) to music.

I _____ (listen) to music **while** my dog _____ (play) outside.

While he _____ (walk) on the street, the dog _____ (sniff) around..

The dog _____ (sniff) around **while** he _____ (walk) on the street.