

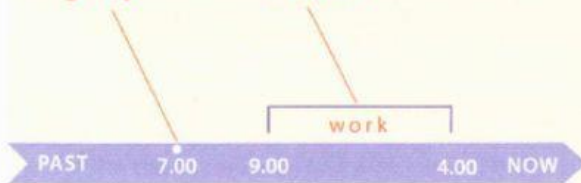
simple past or past progressive? *I walked / I was walking*

We use the **simple past** to talk about **complete** actions (long or short).

We use the **past progressive** for actions which were **not complete** at a past time.

Joe **got up** at 7.00 and **worked** from 9.00 to 4.00.

At 8.00, when Joe came home, I **was reading**.



1 Simple past or past progressive?

- ▶ I lived / was living in France for eight years.
- ▶ Sue lived / was living in France when her uncle died.
- 1 At 6.15, when you phoned, I had / was having a shower.
- 2 We watched / were watching TV all evening.
- 3 Matt watched / was watching TV when Anita came in.
- 4 My father worked / was working hard all his life.
- 5 They got married while they studied / were studying at London University.
- 6 Yesterday we drove / were driving from Oxford to Edinburgh and back.
- 7 It was a nice evening, so she walked / was walking home from work.
- 8 I met Sylvie while I worked / was working in Japan.
- 9 At university I studied / was studying physics.
- 10 When I last saw him he talked / was talking to a policeman.

2 Complete the sentences with past progressive verbs.

- ▶ When I got home (the children watch TV ☐) When I got home the children were watching TV.
- ▶ (you cycle ☐) when you broke your leg Were you cycling when you broke your leg?
- ▶ When I saw Joan (she look ☐) happy When I saw Joan she wasn't looking happy.
- 1 At seven o'clock on Friday (we play cards ☐)
- 2 When I saw him he was holding the phone but (talk ☐)
- 3 When Mary got up (it snow ☐)
- 4 When I saw Alice, (she walk ☐) very fast
- 5 What (you do ☐) at ten o'clock yesterday evening
- 6 When you heard them, (they talk about me ☐)
- 7 How fast (you drive ☐) when you had the accident
- 8 The doorbell rang when I (expect ☐) anybody
- 9 I don't know what I (do ☐) at 10.00 on January 13th, 2005
- 10 I had to drive to London because the trains (run ☐) when I left home

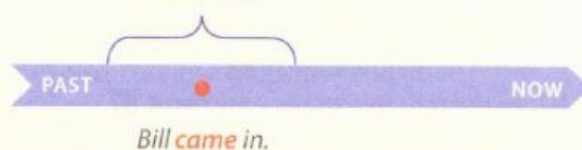
Note the difference when we use the **past progressive** and the **simple past** together.

Past progressive: longer action or situation.

Simple past: complete shorter action that happened while the longer action was happening.

While I **was having** a bath,

While I **was talking** to my brother,



3 Put simple past and past progressive verbs in the right places.

- ▶ While I **was walking** down the road, I **saw** Bill. (walk; see)
- While I the newspaper, the cat on to the table. (read; jump)
 - Alan Helen while he in Morocco. (meet; travel)
 - Sally her leg while she (break; ski)
 - While I , somebody my car. (shop; steal)
 - Ruth me eight times yesterday while I (phone; work)
 - The police me while I home. (stop; drive)
 - I an interesting report on the radio while I breakfast. (hear; have)
 - Dad to sleep again while he TV. (go; watch)
 - While I I a glass. (wash up; break)
 - I my hand while I in the kitchen. (cut; work)
 - When I the house I took my coat because it (leave; snow)
 - When I the door they about me. (open; talk)
 - The telephone while I lunch. (ring; cook)
 - When I last from Harry he in Portugal. (hear; work)

4 Correct (✓) or not (x)?

- This morning I listened to the news before I was going out.
- I walked up to the policeman and asked him the way to the station.
- When Ann arrived I was writing letters.
- The cat was bringing in a mouse while I was having breakfast.
- I didn't go out because when I looked out of the window it rained.
- When I went to sleep the teacher was talking about grammar.
- The teacher was still talking about grammar when I woke up.
- Jenny and Takashi got married while she worked in Tokyo.

5 Put in words from the box, in the simple past or past progressive.

drive open pass pull run shine ✓ sing start turn turn wait

It was a beautiful morning. The sun ▶ **was shining** and birds 1 About five thousand people 2 in front of the palace. At 10.00, the guards 3 the Palace gates, and the President's car 4 out and 5 left into Democracy Street. The crowds 6 to sing the National Anthem. The President's car 7 right into Constitution Square. Then suddenly, just as it 8 the Ritz Hotel, a man 9 out in front of it and 10 a gun from his pocket.

past tenses: more practice

1 Simple past. Make sentences.

- ▶ the train / stop / at every station **+** *The train stopped at every station.*
- ▶ when / my letter / arrive **?** *When did my letter arrive?*
- ▶ the doctor / remember / my name **-** *The doctor didn't remember my name.*
- 1 what / all those people / want **?**
- 2 all your brothers / send you / birthday cards **?**
- 3 the baby / eat / some toothpaste this morning **+**
- 4 the teacher / answer / my question **-**
- 5 I / lose / my keys again yesterday **+**
- 6 anybody / phone / while I was out **?**
- 7 The Prime Minister / tell / us that things were getting better **+**
- 8 My friends and I / believe / the Prime Minister **-**
- 9 Richard / give / me a birthday present **-**
- 10 What time / you / get up / today **?**

2 Past progressive. Complete the sentences with past progressive verbs.

- ▶ When I walked in (*the children fight* **+**) *the children were fighting.*
- ▶ What (*you do* **?**) in my office when I came in *were you doing*
- ▶ When I had the accident (*I drive* **-**) fast *I wasn't driving.*
- 1 At 9.00 on Sunday (*we watch TV* **+**)
- 2 When I saw him he was holding a paper, but (*read* **-**)
- 3 When you heard them, (*they speak English* **?**)
- 4 When you got home, what (*the children do* **?**)
- 5 Anna arrived when I (*expect* **-**) her
- 6 I don't know what I (*do* **+**) at 6.00 on February 18th
- 7 When I looked out of the window it (*snow* **+**) again
- 8 I had to drive to work because the trains (*run* **-**)
- 9 How fast (*you drive* **?**) when the police caught you
- 10 When I saw Peter, he (*stand* **+**) and looking up at my window

3 Simple past and past progressive. Put in the correct verb forms.

- ▶ They *told* the police that they *were playing* cards at 10.00. (*tell; play*)
- 1 When I out of the house I took my umbrella because it (*go; rain*)
- 2 This morning I the newspaper before I went out. (*read*)
- 3 you the football match last night? (*watch*)
- 4 When I into the room they about clothes. (*walk; talk*)
- 5 At 8 o'clock yesterday morning I in the sea. (*swim*)
- 6 I walked up to the classroom window and in. The teacher but nobody (*look; talk; listen*)
- 7 The telephone as usual, while I a bath. (*ring; have*)
- 8 This time last Friday I on the beach. (*lie*)
- 9 Why you home early yesterday? (*go*)
- 10 When I first John he round the world. (*meet; travel*)

4 Grammar in a text. Complete the text with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

Yesterday I 1 (get up) got up at 7.00. When I 1 (look) out of the window it 2 (rain), exactly like every other day this week.
I 3 (wash), 4 (get dressed)
5 (give) the cat his breakfast, and 6 (make) coffee.
7 I (not eat) anything, because I'm never hungry in the morning. Then I
8 (go) to the bus stop and 9 (wait) for the bus. It
10 (not arrive), as usual, so I 11 (walk) to the office.
While I 12 (walk), I decided once again that it was time to find another job – one
with a car. When I 13 (arrive), nobody 14 (work) –
15 everybody (talk) about the weather. The boss
16 (come in) and 17 (tell) everybody to start working, but
this 18 (not make) much difference. I 19 (sit down) at my
desk and 20 (start) thinking about football.

5 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY. Make sure you know all the words in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then try to correct the mistakes. Find the answers on the internet if necessary.

build climb compose discover make invent paint write

- ▶ Galileo wrote 'Hamlet'. Galileo discovered the moons of Jupiter.
- ▶ Shakespeare discovered the moons of Jupiter. Shakespeare wrote 'Hamlet'.
- 1 Mozart built the Eiffel Tower.
- 2 Leonardo da Vinci directed 'Ivan the Terrible'.
- 3 Shah Jehan invented dynamite.
- 4 Alfred Nobel wrote the song 'Help'.
- 5 Sergei Eisenstein built the Taj Mahal.
- 6 Gustave Eiffel wrote 'Pride and Prejudice'.
- 7 Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay composed 'The Marriage of Figaro'.
- 8 Marie Curie first climbed Mount Everest.
- 9 John Lennon and Paul McCartney discovered radium.
- 10 The novelist Jane Austen painted the 'Mona Lisa'.

6 Internet exercise. What did these people do? Use a search engine (e.g. Google) to find out the answers, if necessary.

- 1 Alexander Fleming
- 2 Giuseppe Verdi
- 3 Rembrandt van Rijn
- 4 Edmund Whymper
- 5 Mary Shelley
- 6 Stephanie Kwolek
- 7 Christopher Wren
- 8 Akira Kurosawa

