

Solutions Past Simple vs Past Continuous

Past Simple	Past Continuous
<ul style="list-style-type: none">to talk about the lives of people who are no longer alive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">to describe the atmosphere, weather or place before we describe the main event.
Marilyn Monroe <u>starred</u> in a number of successful films.	The sun <u>was shining</u> . The birds <u>were singing</u> . Tom <u>was enjoying</u> boating at the lake.
	
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Choose the correct tense to complete the sentences.

- 1 Jake looked at the weather outside: it was grey, but it **didn't rain / wasn't raining**.
- 2 You didn't answer when I phoned you this morning.
What **did you do / were you doing**?
- 3 Lucy switched off her computer, **put on / was putting on** her coat and **left / was leaving** the office.
- 4 She closed the window because some children **made / were making** a lot of noise outside.
- 5 When I told my friends about the robbery, they **didn't believe / weren't believing** me.
- 6 She didn't hear the doorbell because she **had / was having** a shower.

Complete the sentences. Use the past simple form of one verb and the past continuous form of the other.

- 1 I _____ (see) Henry as I _____ (cycle) to the sports centre.
- 2 While we _____ (prepare) the picnic, it _____ (start) to rain.
- 3 All my friends _____ (leave) the party when I _____ (arrive).
- 4 As we _____ (walk) by the river, we _____ (hear) a shout.
- 5 We _____ (not eat) very much while we _____ (stay) in that hotel.
- 6 I _____ (drink) my dad's coffee while he _____ (not look).
- 7 She _____ (drop) her new phone as she _____ (put) it in her pocket.
- 8 I _____ (meet) a really interesting person while I _____ (wait) for the bus.

3 Complete the text with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

In January 2014, a doctor from New Zealand ¹had (have) a frightening experience with a shark – but his calm reaction ²_____ (make) him the star of news reports around the world.

James Grant ³_____ (fish) with friends one Saturday when a shark attacked him. He ⁴_____ (not see) anything, but he ⁵_____ (felt) a sudden pain in his leg. At first, he thought that his friends ⁶_____ (play) a prank on him. He ⁷_____ (turn) around – but nobody ⁸_____ (be) behind him. Then he ⁹_____ (realise) what ¹⁰_____ (happen).



Luckily, James ¹¹_____ (carry) a knife so he ¹²_____ (use) it to fight off the shark. Then he ¹³_____ (get) out of the water and ¹⁴_____ (look) at his leg. The bites were 5 cm long and they ¹⁵_____ (bleed) a lot. James ¹⁶_____ (clean) his leg. Then he and his friends ¹⁷_____ (go) to a nearby café! While they ¹⁸_____ (enjoy) a drink, somebody ¹⁹_____ (give) James a bandage because his leg ²⁰_____ (bleed). He ²¹_____ (go) to hospital for some treatment, but on Monday he was back at work.

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first.

- 1 I hurt my finger while I was playing the guitar.
I was playing the guitar when I hurt my finger.
- 2 I was walking home when it started to rain.
While I _____.
- 3 She broke her leg while she was learning to ski.
She was learning _____.
- 4 He was making lunch when he suddenly felt ill.
As he _____.
- 5 She was telling me about her party when she started to laugh loudly.
She started _____.
- 6 I lost my wallet while I was shopping.
While I _____.
- 7 As the band were playing their first song, all the lights went out.
The band were playing _____.

Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Use the past simple or past continuous.

- 1 As I was getting off the bus, _____.
- 2 We were trying to find our hotel when _____.
- 3 An amazing thing happened as _____.