

Past simple and continuous – progress check

A. Choose which verb tense (simple past or past continuous) fits better.

6. I _____ home very late last night.
a) came b) was coming
7. How long _____ the flu?
a) did you have b) were you having
8. _____ a good time in Brazil? Yes, I had a blast!
a) Were you having b) Did you have
9. We _____ breakfast when she walked into the room.
a) had b) were having
10. Last month I decided to buy a new car, and today I finally it.
a) bought b) was buying

B. Read the story and answer the following questions.

A DISASTROUS DINNER

Last Friday, Mrs. Anderson planned to have a delicious dinner. She bought a T-bone steak and some cream and apples for an apple pie. When she came home from the shops she put her shopping on the table. While she was setting the table, her two pets sat underneath it and watched her. Then she went to the kitchen to make the pastry for the pie. She was a little forgetful so she didn't realize the steak, cream and apples were still on the table. While she was making the pastry, the dog jumped on a chair and looked longingly at the steak. At last it took the steak in its mouth and jumped off the chair, just as Mrs. Anderson was coming back into the dining room. Mrs. Anderson screamed, but the dog ran into the garden. She ran after the dog. While she was chasing the dog, the cat jumped on the table and started drinking the cream. Mrs. Anderson didn't manage to catch the dog, and she came back into the dining room. When she saw the cat, she shrieked, and the cat got such a fright that it jumped a meter into the air, and leapt out the window. Mrs. Anderson threw her broom at the cat, but she missed, and broke the window. At the same time, she overbalanced and put her hand in the cream, spilling it all over the tablecloth. Poor Mrs.

Anderson - she had no dinner, only a dirty tablecloth and a broken window.

Glossary: set the table - put knives and forks, plates, salt etc. on the table., underneath - under it., longingly - e.g. the dog wanted it but knew it couldn't have it., shriek - louder than scream., get a fright - suddenly (not the same as be frightened)., overbalance - to lose your balance and fall.

Answer in complete sentences.

2. Why did she buy cream and apples?
4. Where did she leave the steak?
6. How did the dog look at the steak?
8. Where did the dog go?
10. What did Mrs. Anderson do when she saw the cat?

C. Activity 3 Complete the following sentences with the correct form (Past Simple or Past Continuous).

2. After I (find) _____ the wallet full of money, I (go, immediately) _____ to the police and (turn) _____ it in.
4. My best friend (arrive) _____ at my house a little before 9:00 pm, but I (be, not) _____ there. I (study) _____ at the library for my final examination in Italian.

6. I (call) _____ you last night after dinner, but you (be, not) _____ there. Where were you?
B: I (work) _____ out at the gym.
8. I (watch) _____ a thriller on T.V. when the electricity went out. Now I am never going to find out how the film ends.
10. It's strange that you (call) _____ because I (think, just) _____ about you.

D. Activity 4

Find the Past Simple of the following verbs:

come _____
speak _____
see _____
do _____
go _____
sing _____

Complete what Jenny says using the following verbs in the Past Continuous:

Jenny is telling her teacher why she couldn't study for an exam.

⌚ watch ⏸ listen ⌚ sing ⏸ clean ⌚ cook ⏸ play ⌚ lie

It was impossible for me to concentrate! I went to my bedroom and my mother _____ the carpet with the vacuum cleaner. Then I went to the living room but my brother Paul _____ on the sofa. He _____ his guitar. After that I decided to go to the kitchen. There, my grandmother _____ and she _____ also _____ TV. Finally, I went out to the garden where I found my sister. She _____ to her Walkman and she _____ at the top of her voice.

E. Activity 5 Write the correct form of the verb, using the Past Simple or the Past Continuous tense.

4) They _____ (decide) what to do when Jason _____ (suggest) going to the club.
5) Frank _____ (take) Jason and _____ (drive) to the club.
6) Two other people _____ (use) their tennis court when they _____ (arrive).
7) They _____ (drink) a soda and _____ (eat) a sandwich while they _____ (wait) to play.
8) While they _____ (play), it _____ (start) to rain so they _____ (have) to stop playing.