

## THE PAST SIMPLE & THE PAST CONTINUOUS

### I. Complete the sentences, putting the verbs into the past continuous or past simple:

1. When the postman (come) \_\_\_\_\_, I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast
2. My sister (wash) \_\_\_\_\_ dishes while I (work) \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden
3. While I (talk) \_\_\_\_\_ to John, the telephone (ring) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mr. Taylor (watch) \_\_\_\_\_ television while his wife (read) \_\_\_\_\_ a newspaper
5. When I (leave) \_\_\_\_\_ the house this morning, It (rain) \_\_\_\_\_ very hard
6. John (talk) \_\_\_\_\_ to his friends when I (see) \_\_\_\_\_ him
7. I (see) \_\_\_\_\_ a bad accident while I (wait) \_\_\_\_\_ for you in this corner
8. As we (cross) \_\_\_\_\_ the street, the policeman (shout) \_\_\_\_\_ at us
9. That tourist (lose) \_\_\_\_\_ his camera while he (walk) \_\_\_\_\_ around the city
10. It (snow) \_\_\_\_\_ when I (get) \_\_\_\_\_ up this morning
11. Albert Einstein (die) \_\_\_\_\_ in 1955
12. Tom (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to the post office twice yesterday.
13. He (fall) \_\_\_\_\_ while he (go) \_\_\_\_\_ down the stairs
14. What \_\_\_\_\_ she (do) when you (arrive) \_\_\_\_\_ there? She (write) \_\_\_\_\_ a letter
15. She (have) \_\_\_\_\_ her bath while her sister (get) \_\_\_\_\_ the breakfast ready
16. I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to ask you to help me, but you (sleep) \_\_\_\_\_ so peacefully when I (look) \_\_\_\_\_ into your room that I (decide) \_\_\_\_\_ to do it alone
17. I (look) \_\_\_\_\_ up at the sky, dark clouds (gather) \_\_\_\_\_
18. Just as I (write) \_\_\_\_\_ the letter, the inkpot (fall) \_\_\_\_\_ over
19. Mr. Nam (cook) \_\_\_\_\_ dinner when we (arrive) \_\_\_\_\_
20. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you/do) when I (telephone) \_\_\_\_\_ you last night?

### II. Complete the sentences, putting the verbs into the correct tenses:

1. I (get) \_\_\_\_\_ hungry. Let's go and have something to eat
2. Be quiet! I (want) \_\_\_\_\_ to hear the news broadcast
3. What \_\_\_\_\_ you (do) yesterday?  
I (get) \_\_\_\_\_ up very early, (have) \_\_\_\_\_ my breakfast and then I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to my office
4. Egypt (produce) \_\_\_\_\_ some of the finest cotton in the world
5. What \_\_\_\_\_ she (do) when you (arrive) \_\_\_\_\_ at her house yesterday morning?  
She (cook) \_\_\_\_\_ her breakfast in the kitchen
6. What \_\_\_\_\_ you usually (read) when you (be) \_\_\_\_\_ on holiday?  
I (read) \_\_\_\_\_ detective stories. Now I (read) \_\_\_\_\_ "The Shut door" by Ivor Lock
7. Ann (wait) \_\_\_\_\_ for me when I (arrive) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Mary (usually/phone) \_\_\_\_\_ me on Fridays but She (not phone) \_\_\_\_\_ last Friday
9. What's the noise? What (happen) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
10. Yesterday evening, the phone (ring) \_\_\_\_\_ three times while we (have) \_\_\_\_\_ dinner
11. Why are you under the table? You (look) \_\_\_\_\_ for something?
12. \_\_\_\_\_ You (watch) TV last night? No, I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ supper and (go) \_\_\_\_\_ straight to bed
13. I (not like) \_\_\_\_\_ staying at hotels, but last summer, we (spend) \_\_\_\_\_ a few days at a very nice hotel by the sea.

14. Linda (be) \_\_\_\_\_ busy when we (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to see her yesterday. She (study) \_\_\_\_\_ for an exam. We (not want) \_\_\_\_\_ to disturb her, so we (not stay) \_\_\_\_\_ very long
15. When I first (tell) \_\_\_\_\_ Tom the news, he (not believe) \_\_\_\_\_ me. He (think) \_\_\_\_\_ that I (joke) \_\_\_\_\_
16. We usually (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to Spain on holiday, but this year we (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to France
17. We can go out now. It (not rain) \_\_\_\_\_ any more
18. The sun (warm) \_\_\_\_\_ the air and (give) \_\_\_\_\_ us light
19. What speed \_\_\_\_\_ the car (do) at the time of the accident?
20. They (study) \_\_\_\_\_ in the library when the fire alarm (go) \_\_\_\_\_ off

### III. Circle the best option to complete each sentence:

1. She usually \_\_\_\_\_ two hours a day  
a. work                      b. is working                      c. works                      d. working
2. Don't make noise. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ with her friends  
a. is talking                      b. was talking                      c. talks                      d. talked
3. Listen! They \_\_\_\_\_ about the exhibition . Let's join them  
a. talk                      b. talked                      c. are talking                      d. have talked
4. Where \_\_\_\_\_ your sister born?  
a. were                      b. was                      c. did                      d. is
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ have white wine, but we \_\_\_\_\_ red wine  
a. didn't/had                      b. don't/had                      c. did/didn't                      d. didn't/have
6. When did you \_\_\_\_\_ see him?  
a. recently                      b. already                      c. last                      d. lately
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ a bath when the phone rang  
a. was having                      b. had                      c. am having                      d. have
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ her two week ago  
a. seen                      b. was seeing                      c. saw                      d. have seen
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ to his house in 1991  
a. moved                      b. have been movingc. have moved                      d. was moving
10. He came into the room while they \_\_\_\_\_ television  
a. have watched                      b. watched                      c. were watching                      d. have been watching
11. I fell asleep when I \_\_\_\_\_ television  
a. am watching                      b. am being watchedc. was watching                      d. All are correct
12. They \_\_\_\_\_ last week  
a. didn't come                      b. came not                      c. don't come                      d. did come
13. Where are Geoff and Anne? \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden  
a. They're sitting                      b. They sitting                      c. There sitting                      d. They're siting
14. It's very cold today and \_\_\_\_\_  
a. It's snowing                      b. it snows                      c. its snowing                      d. it snowing
15. She goes to the library twice a week. She \_\_\_\_\_ read books there  
a. never                      b. usually                      c. rarely                      d. once
16. At nine o'clock yesterday morning, we \_\_\_\_\_ for the bus  
a. are waiting                      b. waited                      c. were waiting                      d. was waiting

17. Tom \_\_\_\_\_ his hand when he was cooking the dinner  
 a. burnt                      b. was burning                      c. has burnt                      d. had burnt
18. He \_\_\_\_\_ me every Sunday, and we often go fishing together  
 a. came to see                      b. comes to see                      c. will be coming to see. All answer are correct
19. The phone rang while she \_\_\_\_\_ dinner  
 a. cooks                      b. was cooking                      c. is cooking                      d. has cooked
20. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ trouble with her motobike now, so she has to take the bus to work  
 a. have                      b. is having                      c. was having                      d. had
21. When my mum got home, \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. the dinner be cooked                      b. I was cooking dinner  
 c. I am cooking dinner                      d. the dinner deing cooked
22. Emma and Katie usually \_\_\_\_\_ their grandmother at weekends  
 a. have visited                      b. visits                      c. visit                      d. are visiting
23. Peter was reading a book by Mark Twain \_\_\_\_\_ his friends came  
 a. while                      b. when                      c. during                      d. if
24. Look! That boy \_\_\_\_\_ an elephant over there  
 a. fed                      b. was feeding                      c. feeds                      d. is feeding
25. He \_\_\_\_\_ in London at the moment  
 a. studies                      b. has studied                      c. is studying                      d. will study