

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 weeks 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 sitting

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

