

The Past Progressive and Simple Past

When English uses the past progressive and the simple past together, the past progressive describes a longer, background action, and the past simple describes a shorter action that interrupts the background action.

Example: Claudia **was walking** her dog when her friend **called**.
I **heard** the news as I **was driving** over here.

Choose the correct form of each verb to complete each sentence.

- 1) Tommy and Billy (**climb**) _____ trees when Billy (**fall**) _____ and (**break**) _____ his leg.
- 2) At the beach, we (**swim**) _____ when it (**start**) _____ to rain.
- 3) Jody (**see**) _____ her friend Bob while she (**shop**) _____ last Saturday.
- 4) We (eat) _____ dinner when we (hear) _____ the phone ring.
- 5) Mark's cat (claw) _____ him while he (pet) _____ it yesterday.

Write the correct form of each verb in each box.

- 6) They (sit) _____ on the park bench when the bird (land) _____ in front of them.
- 7) I (lose) _____ my watch when I (swim) _____ in the sea.
- 8) Luisa (clean) _____ her house when she (see) _____ the spider.
- 9) Cody (fall) _____ asleep last night as we (watch) _____ the movie.
- 10) Susanna (cook) _____ dinner when she (burn) _____ her hand.

Your turn! Make some sentences using both the past progressive and simple past tenses.

- 11) _____
- 12) _____
- 13) _____
- 14) _____
- 15) _____