

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_