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) _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS