Grammar: Past Simple and Past Continuous

Remember!

When we describe events which go one after another, we use the Past Simple.

We often say what was going on when other events happened. We use the Past Continuous for such longer actions.

Complete the text with the Past Continuous.

It was late evening. The sun [0] was going down.
A cool wind (blow) and the first star (shine) in the sky.
In the tavern an old Cossack (tell) a story. All the other Cossacks (listen) . Some of them (eat), some of them (drink). Some (sit) on the floor.
Some (stand) around the table. The old man (tell) a story about witches. Some of the Cossacks (smile) because they didn't believe that the story was true.

Remember!

We sometimes use the Past Continuous and the Past Simple together. We use the Past Continuous for the action that started first and the Past Simple for the interrupting action.

Read the rule. Underline the longer action and circle the interrupting action.

1 I was reading a horror story when my phone rang!
2 They were listening to the old man when somebody came in.
3 He was standing guard, when some strange things happened.

Complete the text with the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

When the night came Vasyl was still on guard. He [0] wasn't sleeping (not sleep). He (sit) near the fire. He (look) at the fire when he (hear) a strange noise. He (stand) up and (look) around. He (look)into the dark when he (see) a horrible figure near the tavern! He (take) out his gun and (walk) to the figure. He (walk) to thetavern when somebody (laugh)loudly behind his back! He (turn) around but didn't see anyone! For some time there was complete silence. Vasyl (sit) down near the fire again. He (think) about the strange things when suddenly he (fall) asleep.

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