

'when' + short action (past simple tense)  
 'while' + long action (past continuous tense)

I **was watching** TV when Jim **knocked** the door.

|              |                             |              |                              |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
|              | I <b>was watching</b> TV    | <b>when</b>  | Jim <b>knocked</b> the door. |
| <b>When</b>  | Jim <b>knocked</b> the door | ,            | I <b>was watching</b> TV     |
|              | Jim <b>knocked</b> the door | <b>while</b> | I <b>was watching</b> TV     |
| <b>While</b> | I <b>was watching</b> TV    | ,            | Jim <b>knocked</b> the door  |

## Past simple & Past Continuous

1) Read the sentences. Circle the correct option.

- 1- Last Saturday night I **set** / **was setting** the table when my friends **arrived** / **were arriving**.
- 2- While we **watched** / **were watching** a movie the doorbell **rang** / **was ringing**.
- 3- The phone **rang** / **was ringing** while my sister **had** / **was having** a bath.
- 4- Jason and I **played** / **were playing** on the computer when his Dad **came** / **was coming** to pick him up.
- 5- Jimmy and Susie **fixed** / **were fixing** their bikes when Grandpa **brought** / **was bringing** new ones!

**Complete the sentences using either the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.**

- |                                              |                                        |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1- When my grandparents came to visit, I     | a thief got into the shop              |
| 2- While Dad was cleaning the kitchen,       | mom was washing the car in the garage. |
| 3- While I was doing the dishes,             | the cat jumped over the clean cups.    |
| 4- When it started to rain, the children     | was still sleeping.                    |
| 5-When Jane and Tom were in the<br>bookshop, | Were playing rugby outside.            |