

# GRAMMAR: PAST SIMPLE AND PAST CONTINUOUS

1. Look at the verbs in bold. Which are past simple (PS) and which are past continuous (PC)?

1. I **was buying** ( ) a book when I **saw** ( ) a famous novelist.
2. It **started** ( ) to rain while I **was waiting** ( ) for the bus.
3. An actor **had** ( ) an accident while he **was working** ( ) on a film in Hollywood.
4. What **was** your dog **doing** ( ) when you **found** ( ) him?
5. The phone **rang** ( ) while I **was watching** ( ) TV.
6. We **were studying** ( ) when we **heard** ( ) the news.

2. Choose the correct option of the past simple or past continuous.

Jenna **studied** / **was studying** at school when she **started** / **was starting** working as a fashion model in her free time. A well-known fashion photographer **noticed** / **was noticing** her while she **stood** / **was standing** at a bus stop with a friend. They **chatted** / **were chatting** about clothes when he **asked** / **was asking** Jenna if he could take her photo. What **did she wear** / **was she wearing** when this **happened** / **was happening**? Her school uniform!

3. Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs.

1. I (dream) about birds when I (wake) up suddenly.
2. you (become) interested in American history while you (visit) the USA ?
3. He (ride) to school when he (fall) off his bike.
4. The *Titanic* (sail) in the North Atlantic Ocean when it (hit) an iceberg.
5. She (not look) for cars when she (cross) the road.
6. Archimedes (have) an amazing idea while he (have) a bath.

4. Complete the sentences with the correct affirmative ✓, negative ✗ or question ?, past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

J. K. Rowling **was living** in Manchester when she got the idea for the Harry Potter stories. (✓ live)

1. When **they** **the first Fantastic Beasts film?** (? make)
2. The first Spider-Man comic **in 1962.** (✓ appear)
3. I **it stopped suddenly.** (✓ read)
4. The last James Bond novel **a bestseller.** (✗ be)
5. Who **you** **when I saw you in town?** (? Talk)

5. Complete the sentences with **when** or **while**.

1. **I was reading my book, my phone rang.**
2. It was raining **we arrived home.**
3. J. K. Rowling discovered the famous Lello bookshop **she was living in Porto, Portugal.**
4. Dad was watching Avatar **he fell asleep.**
5. Alice finished her novel **the rest of the family were sleeping.**

6. Choose the correct option and complete the sentences with the correct past simple or past continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

When / While I got (get) home I was really tired, so I went to bed.

1. Natalia phoned her dad **when / while** she **(walk) home.**
2. I wasn't surprised **when / while** I **(see) some friends at the concert.**
3. **When / While** we **(run) through the park, a dog attacked us.**
4. What did you do **when / while** your friends **(get) ready for the party?**
5. Marek **(not play) football when / while** he injured his knee.
6. Some people **(chat) when / while** the film started.
7. 'What **you** **(do) when / while** you first heard the news?' 'I was having dinner.'

7. Put the verbs in parentheses in the past simple or past continuous.

*I arrived (arrive) while they were watching (watch) the news on TV.*

1. He (have) a bath when he suddenly (have) a brilliant idea for a film.
2. While my parents (travel) around South America, they (take) hundreds of photos.
3. We (talk) in my bedroom when my brother (start) playing his guitar.
4. I (not concentrate) when the teacher (tell) us which page to turn to.
5. When the police officer (knock) on the door, Sarah (make) lunch.
6. My dad (tell) a story when my granddad (fall) asleep.
7. I (not buy) anything while I (look) at the website.

8. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use the correct form of the past simple or the past continuous.

*He wasn't watching (not watch) a DVD when I arrived.*

1. the play (finish) while Dan was sleeping?
2. I (find) the book I wanted while I was browsing the internet.
3. Ali received the text message while he (watch) TV.
4. Charles Dickens (work) for a newspaper when he wrote his first novel?
5. I finally (understand) the film's plot while we were leaving the cinema!