

## Past Simple and Past Continuous

### A. Use the Pas Simple and Past Continuous to make sentences from the words in brackets.

1. (The ambulance / arrive / while / I / have / breakfast)
2. (The argument / start / while / they / be / on the bus)
3. (Clémence / go / to all the museums / while / she / stay / in Madrid)
4. (I / have / lunch / when / the police / arrive)
5. (My sister / cook / dinner / when / she / cut / her hand)
6. (The soldiers / prepare / to leave / when / the sergeant / give / them a different order)

### B. Complete this true story. Use the verbs in parentheses ( ) in either the past simple (présent) or past continuous. (Story taken from the Internet.)

Casey Jones (1863-1900) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) an American railway driver – called a *train engineer* in American English. He \_\_\_\_\_ (become) a hero when he \_\_\_\_\_ (die) because he \_\_\_\_\_ (save) the lives of many passengers in a terrible accident.

On 30 April 1900 Casey \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) his train, the Cannonball Express, back to the station during a dark and wet night. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) with another driver named Webb, who was also his friend. The train \_\_\_\_\_ (go) fast because Casey and Webb \_\_\_\_\_ (want) to get back to the station as soon as possible; however, this \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) the problem. There \_\_\_\_\_ (be) another train that \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) on the same track. Casey and Webb \_\_\_\_\_ (not know) about the other train.

As Casey \_\_\_\_\_ (come) around a curve, he \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the other train. Casey \_\_\_\_\_ (realize) the danger. He \_\_\_\_\_ (shout) to Webb to jump from the train. Webb \_\_\_\_\_ (jump) from the train while Casey \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to stop. Webb \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) more than 300 feet (100 meters), but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not die). While he



\_\_\_\_\_ (fall) he \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) his friend Casey. Casey \_\_\_\_\_ (shout), “Help!”

The train \_\_\_\_\_ (go) fast, so it could not stop quickly. Casey \_\_\_\_\_ (slow) the train, but it still \_\_\_\_\_ (crash) into the other train. Casey was killed because he was at the front of the train, but the passengers \_\_\_\_\_ (not die).

Casey’s friend, Webb, \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a very popular song about his friend. He \_\_\_\_\_ (title) the song, *The Ballad of Casey Jones*.

**C. Complete these short texts. Use the verbs in parentheses ( ) in either the past simple (prétérít) or past continuous.**

1. Beethoven \_\_\_\_\_ (write) many classical masterpieces. He \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a symphony when he \_\_\_\_\_ (die).

2. The artist Gaudi \_\_\_\_\_ (design) several houses in Barcelona, Spain. Later he \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) work on a cathedral. He \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on the church when he \_\_\_\_\_ (die).

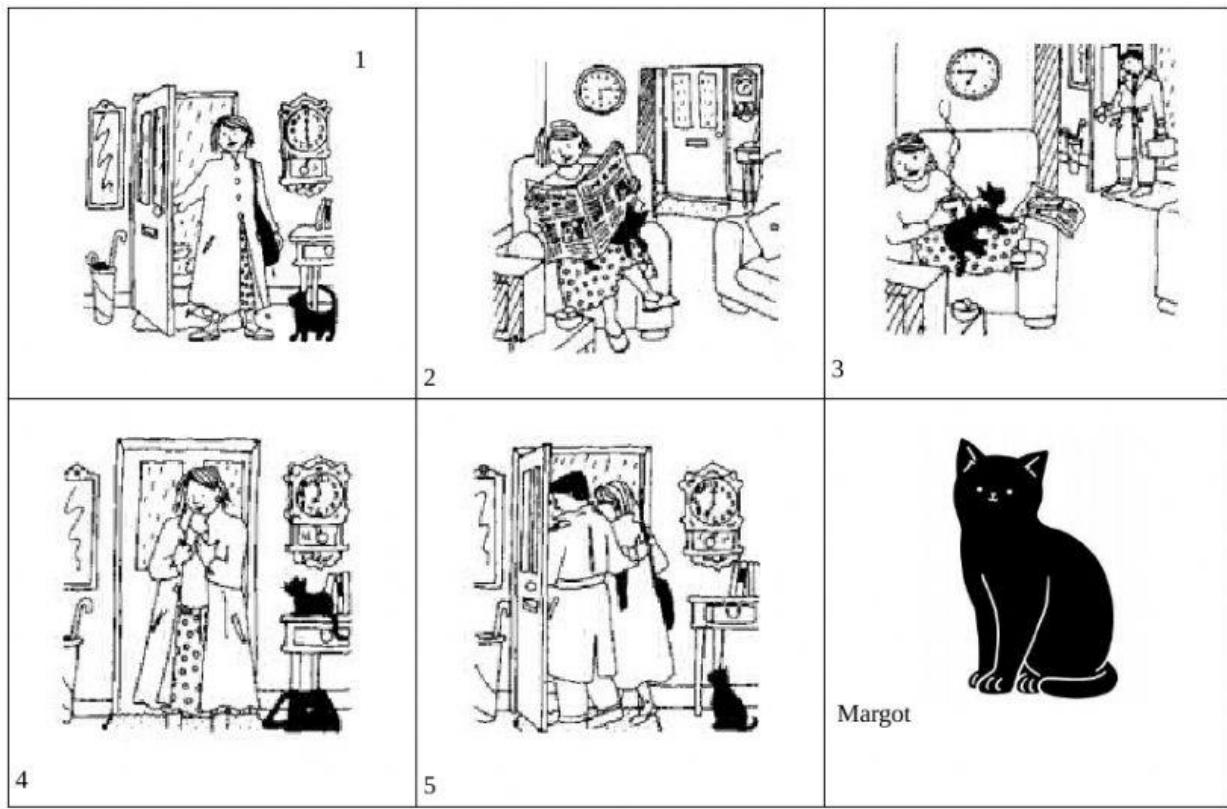
3. John Lennon \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) and \_\_\_\_\_ (play) on many records with the Beatles. Later he \_\_\_\_\_ (record) several songs without the Beatles. He \_\_\_\_\_ (arrange) a new record when a man named Mark Chapman \_\_\_\_\_ (shoot) him.

4. Last Sunday Tena \_\_\_\_\_ (want) to make two salads. She \_\_\_\_\_ (make) the first one quickly. She \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) the second salad when her dinner guests \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive). Sheri \_\_\_\_\_ (help) Tena to finish the second salad.

5. Alix’s rugby team \_\_\_\_\_ (be) fortunate last weekend. Until almost the end of the game they \_\_\_\_\_ (lose), but at that last minute they \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the game when they \_\_\_\_\_ (score) a try.

6. The sky \_\_\_\_\_ (get) darker; the street lights \_\_\_\_\_ (come) on. Students \_\_\_\_\_ (rush) home after their studies. I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) in a group on the subway platform. Suddenly someone \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) my mobile phone!

D. A policewoman is interviewing Mary Anderson about last Saturday evening. Using the images as a guide, complete the conversation using either the past simple (présent) or past continuous.



Policewoman: What time did you get (you/get) home from work?

Mary: At about 6 o'clock.

Policewoman: And what <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you /do) after you got home?

Mary: I read the newspaper.

Mary: Yes, the phone <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (ring).

Policewoman: What<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you/do) when your husband came home?

Mary: I was watching TV, and I<sup>5</sup> (drink) a cup of coffee.

Policewoman: Did you and your husband stay at home?

Mary: No, I<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) my coffee. Then I put on my raincoat, and we<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out at seven o'clock.

Policewoman: Why<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you/put) your raincoat on?

Mary: Because it<sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (rain), of course.