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 (prétérit) 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

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_____ (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 (prétérit) 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.

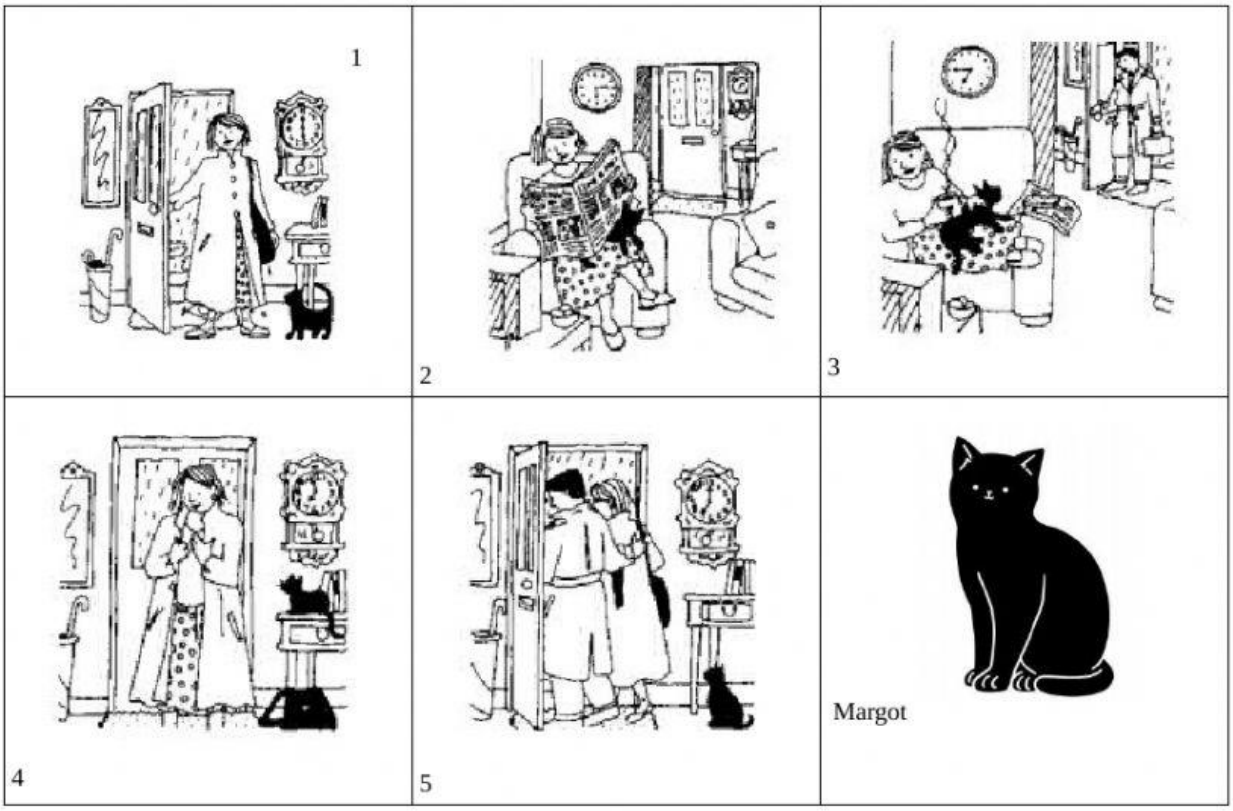
4. Last Sunday Tena _____ (want) to make two salads. She _____ (make) the first one quickly. She _____ (prepare) the second salad when her dinner guests _____ (arrive). Sheri _____ (help) Tena to finish the second salad.

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!

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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 (prétérit) or past continuous.



Policewoman: What time 0 did you get _____ (you/get) home from work?

Mary: At about 6 o'clock.

Policewoman: And what 1 _____ (you /do) after you got home?

Mary: I read the newspaper.

Policewoman: Did anything happen while 2 _____ (read) the paper?

Mary: Yes, the phone 3 _____ (ring) .

Policewoman: What 4 _____ (you/do) when your husband came home?

Mary: I was watching TV, and I 5 _____ (drink) a cup of coffee.

Policewoman: Did you and your husband stay at home?

Mary: No, I 6 _____ (drink) my coffee. Then I put on my raincoat, and we 7 _____ (go) out at seven o'clock.

Policewoman: Why 8 _____ (you/put) your raincoat on?

Mary: Because it 9 _____ (rain), of course.

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