

PAST SIMPLE AND PAST CONTINUOUS

1. Complete the following sentences with the correct form (Past Simple (-ed, irregular verb or Past Continuous was/were +ing)).

E.g I was watching a movie, when I heard a noise.

- A: What (you, do) _____ when you heard that noise?
B: I (try) _____ to change a light bulb that had burnt out.
- After I (find) _____ the wallet full of money, I (go, immediately) _____ to the police and (turn) _____ it in.
- The doctor (say) _____ that Brian (be) _____ too weak to go to work and that he (need) _____ to stay at home for a couple of days.
- My best friend (arrive) _____ at my house a little before 9:00 pm, but I (be, not) _____ there. I (study) _____ at the library for my final examination in Italian.
- John is in the living room working on his computer. At this time yesterday, he (work, also) _____ on his computer. That's all he ever does!
- I (call) _____ you last night after dinner, but you (be, not) _____ there. Where were you? B: I (work) _____ out at the gym.
- When I (walk) _____ into the busy office, the secretaries (talk) _____ on the phone with customers, a clerk (work, busily) _____ at his desk, and two managers (discuss, quietly) _____ methods to improve customer service.
- I (watch) _____ a thriller on T.V. when the electricity went out. Now I am never going to find out how the film ends.
- Samantha (be) _____ in the room when Bob (tell) _____ me what happened, but she didn't hear anything because she (be, listen) _____ to music.
- It's strange that you (call) _____ because I (think, just) _____ about you.

2. Write the Past Simple of the following verbs.

work		come	
find		speak	
fall		listen	
clean		think	
live		teach	
wash		do	
be		swim	
stop		sit	

3. Put the verbs into the correct form (Past Continuous -ing).

E.g. When I was watching a bird flying in the sky, I fell over.

- When I phoned my friends, they (play) _____ Monopoly.
- Yesterday at six I (prepare) _____ dinner.
- The kids (play) _____ in the garden when it suddenly began to rain.
- I (practice) _____ the guitar when he came home.
- We (not / cycle) _____ all day.
- While Aaron (work) _____ in his room, his friends (swim) _____ in the pool.
- I tried to tell them the truth but they (listen / not) _____.
- What (you / do) _____ yesterday?
- Most of the time we (sit) _____ in the park.

4. Write the correct form of the verbs. (Past Simple (-ed, irregular verb or Past Continuous was/were +ing)).

E.g I was watching a movie, when I heard a noise.

- I (not see) _____ Susan, when I (walk) _____ in the park.
- While she (do) _____ her homework, her father (come) _____ home.

c. When David (see) _____ Tom, he (not work) _____, he (sleep) _____ at his desk.

d. The burglar (come) _____ while they (play) _____ some loud music.

e. They (not hear) _____ the burglar because they (play) _____ the music too loudly.

f. The dog (bark) _____, but nobody (come) _____.

g. I (watch) _____ TV when my aunt (arrive) _____.

h. He (study) _____ in Salamanca when the Civil War (begin) _____.

i. The lion (not hunt) _____ when the man (shoot) _____ him.

j. We (play) _____ cards when the fire (start) _____.

k. He (give) _____ her the ring as the train (leave) _____.

l. They (see) _____ the monkeys while they (visit) _____ the zoo.

m. We (drive) _____ to the hospital when the baby (be born) _____.

5. Write the Past Continuous (-ing) form of these verbs.

go		stop	
sit		win	
pick		buy	
visit		phone	
come		run	
work		cry	

6. Choose the correct tense.

a. As the stranger **came** | **was coming** to the station, a car **stopped** | **was stopping** behind him.

b. My grandma never **watched** | **was never watching** TV. But she **read** | **was reading** books.

c. **I started** | **was starting** work at 6 o'clock.

d. He **got up** | **was getting up** and **switched off** | **was switching off** the light.

e. When **I finished** | **was finishing** my homework, I **cooked** | **was cooking** dinner.

f. While we **listened** | **were listening** to the news, the telephone **rang** | **was ringing**. Kate **stood up** | **was standing up** and **answered** | **was answering** it.

g. As I **drove** | **was driving** to work last Friday, a car **crashed** | **was crashing** in front of me. I **stepped** | **was stepping** on the brakes.

h. Yesterday Carol **wrote** | **was writing** emails from 10 to 11 and then from 5 to 7 again.

i. We arrived in Cannes at 2.30. The sun **shone** | **was shining**, people **sunbathed** | **were sunbathing** on the beach and big yachts **sailed** | **were sailing** near the harbour. We parked our car and **went** | **were going** to the beach.

7. Make these sentences NEGATIVE.

a. She lost her purse.

b. He rode slowly.

c. He was making much noise at midnight.

d. They came early.

e. We were sitting at the table.

f. She ran away.

g. The sun set at 7.45.

h. It was getting dark at 7.

i. He was talking to Tim the other day.

j. They were listening to the radio from 5 to 6.

8. Read these sentences and MAKE QUESTIONS.

a. When I met him, he was talking on the telephone.
Who to? (he | talk)

b. The company wanted to finish this house last week.
And when it? (they | start)

c. I tried to get in touch with you last weekend.
Why to get in touch with me? (you | want)

d. My sister was not listening when I wanted to tell her.

What ? (your sister | do)

e. I had an accident on Monday.

What ? (happen | you)