

PAST TENSES PRACTICE
(PAST SIMPLE and PAST CONTINUOUS)

1. Circle the correct form.

- a) Dave **arrived / was arriving** at Sue's house at 19.30, but she wasn't there. She **did/was doing** some shopping at the supermarket.
- b) At this time last week, we **lay/were lying** on the beach in the sun.
- c) A: I **phoned / was phoning** you yesterday after school. Where were you?
B: Oh. My mobile was off because I **rehearsed / was rehearsing** for the concert on Saturday.
- d) When I **walked / was walking** into the class, the teacher **talked /was talking** about grammar.
- e) The Titanic **crossed / was crossing** the Atlantic when it **hit/ was hitting** an iceberg.
- f) I **watched / was watching** the episode on TV when the electricity **went / was going** off.

2. Complete the sentences using the correct past tense: PAST SIMPLE or PAST CONTINUOUS.

1. While Simon _____ (sleep), his sister _____ (take) his toy.
2. While we _____ (dance) at the party, the lights _____ (go) out.
3. While Mary and Jack _____ (play) tennis, it _____ (start) to rain.
4. While they _____ (travel) around Europe, somebody _____ (break) into their house.
5. While I _____ (set) the table, I _____ (drop) a plate and it _____ (break).
6. While they _____ (swim) in the sea, they _____ (see) a shark.
7. While Mr Smith _____ (run) down the street, he _____ (lose) his key.
8. While she _____ (stay) in London, she _____ (meet) a nice man and they _____ (fall) in love.
9. I _____ (go) out, while my parents _____ (watch) TV.
10. The teacher _____ (come) into the classroom, while students _____ (shout) at each other.