

WHEN-WHILE

1

'While' is used to express two continuous actions happening at the same time.

Example: While you were sleeping, I was doing the housework.

2

'When' is used to express an action that happened in the course of another action.

Example: When we were in the city center, we went to nice restaurants.

3

'While' or 'When' is used when a continuous long action is interrupted by a short action.

Example: (while) I was doing homework, (when) my mother knocked at the door.

4

'When' is used to express an action that happened immediately after another action.

Example: When Joe shouted at Tina, she left him in the cafe and went away.

Fill in the blanks with 'WHEN' or 'WHILE'

- _____ my father was reading a book, my mother was looking at the family album.
- I was having a shower, _____ my friend broke my mother's favourite vase.
- _____ the teacher came into the classroom, some students were arguing with each other.
- I arrived home, _____ all the guests were having tea and biscuits.
- _____ she was a little girl, she visited her relatives with her mother.
- I liked working in group and pairs, _____ I was a secondary school student.
- _____ Sue was waiting for the 12 o'clock train, she met an old friend.
- The Pearsons were having a large breakfast, _____ the doorbell rang.
- My father was waiting in the car, _____ my mother was doing shopping.
- What were you doing _____ the teacher looked at you suddenly.
- _____ the train left, Thomas was rushing to the station.
- The electricity went off, _____ we were watching a horror film.
- _____ Mathew was going to the library, he saw a car accident on Mapple Street.
- The baby boy started crying, _____ his mother was combing her hair.
- _____ the mother was doing the washing up, the twins were sweeping the floor.
- The sun was rising, _____ we reached the summit of the mountain.
- _____ Susan entered the living room, everybody began singing 'Happy Birthday'.
- Mr. Robinson fell off the tree _____ he was looking at the little bird's nest.
- _____ I dropped the vase, it broke into pieces.

Complete the sentences with 'Past Simple' or 'Past Continuous' using the verbs in brackets

- Mr. Thompson _____ (drive) very fast when he hit a tree.
- Jack _____ (milk) the cows when a stranger came into the barn.
- Susan _____ (see) the burglar while he was rushing into his car.
- My uncle _____ (listen) to the radio when the earthquake happened.
- The old lady was trying to cross the street when a boy _____ (offer) help.
- All the children _____ (sleep) when their father opened the front door.
- While Mr. Triumph _____ (fix) the television, he fell asleep.
- Tina was playing with her dolls when her brother _____ (finish) his homework.
- I was working on the Science project when you _____ (come) into the room with a big chocolate cake in your hand.
- The children _____ (play) tennis when their grandmother called them for lunch.
- Jack and Steven _____ (have dinner) when they heard a strange noise.
- My brother was tidying the bookcase while I _____ (make) the beds.
- What _____ (you do) when your father came home from work?
- Who _____ (speak) while the teacher was introducing the new subject?
- I suddenly _____ (fall down) while I was running away from the monster in my dream. I _____ (shout) when it caught my hand.
- Mary _____ (look) out of the window when it started raining.