PAST SIMPLE VS PAST CONTINUOUS

Intermediate level

By Ms.Thu

	(Past Simple)	(Past Continuous)
Statement	**S + V-ed/ VpI + O** He went to school late yesterday.	**S + was/were + V-ing + O** I was playing video games when my friend dropped by.
Negative	**S + didn't + V-inf + O** I didn't finish the Maths test yesterday.	**S + wasn't/ weren't + V-ing +O** She was doing homework when I entered her room.
Yes/ No question	**Did+ S + V-inf + O?** Did you visit Da Nang last summer?	**Was/ Were + S + V-ing + O?** Was you cooking when the guests came?
"Wh" question	**Wh + did + S + V-inf +...?** What did you do last summer?	**Wh + S + was/were + V-ing +...?** What was you doing at 10 p.m last night?

Exercise 1: Give the correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets

1. Susan _____ (study) in her room when she heard the noise.
2. What _____ (they, do) at eleven p.m. last night - it was so noisy?
3. I was eight years old when my elder sister _____ (teach) me how to ride a bike.
4. John _____ (not go) to school last week because he was ill.
5. I didn't know anything about the plane crash in my neighborhood because I _____ (work) inside at that time.
6. Yesterday at 9.30 p.m my parents _____ (sit) in the garden _____ (drink) some Coke.
7. The chambermaid _____ (make) my bed in the hotel and _____ (clean) the bathroom.
8. Someone _____ (knock) on the door while _____ (read) the newspaper.
9. My brother _____ (buy) a lot of books when he _____ (live) in Cambridge.

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10. William _____ (not meet) Sally at the airport last Sunday.

11. Jerry _____ (have) dinner when the lights _____ (go) out.

12. The girl _____ (feel) ill so she _____ (not go) to work.

13. I _____ (make) a pudding when the light _____ (go) out.

14. We suddenly _____ (realize) that we _____ (travel) in the wrong direction.

15. While I _____ (swim) someone _____ (steal) my clothes and I _____ (have to) walk to the hotel in my swimsuit.

16. The floor _____ (be) covered with balls of wool. Obviously Grandmother _____ (knit) something.

17. I _____ (find) this coin as I _____ (dig) in the garden. It looks very old.

18. When I first _____ (meet) him, he _____ (work) in a cafe.

19. When I _____ (read) a book, I _____ (hear) a knock, I _____ (go) to the door and _____ (open) it, but I _____ (not recognize) my friend at first because I _____ (not wear) my glasses.

20. When I _____ (come) in they _____ (sit) round the fire.

Exercise 2: Complete this email with either the past simple or the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

I (1. buy) _____ a new alarm clock the other day in Taylor's the jewellers, when I actually (2. see) _____ somebody shoplifting. I'd finished paying for my clock and as I (3. turn) _____ round, an elderly woman (4. slowly put) _____ a silver plate into a bag that she (5. carry) _____. Then she (6. walk) _____ over to another part of the shop and (7. pick up) _____ an expensive-looking watch a

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number of times. When she (8. think) _____ that nobody (9. look) _____, she (10. drop) _____ it into the bag. Before I (11. have) _____ a chance to tell the staff in the shop, she (12. notice) _____ that I (13. watch) _____ her and (14. hurry)_____ out. Unfortunately for her, two police officers (15. walk) _____ past just at that moment and she (16. run) _____ straight into them.

Exericise 3: Circle the correct verb form in each of the following sentences

1. Mary (prepared/ was preparing) lunch when they (came/ was coming)
2. The sun (shone/ was shining) brightly when I (got up/ was getting up) this morning.
3. Ann finally (told/ was telling) us the whole story about Peter
4. We (drove/ were driving) to Berlin in Robert's new car
5. Last weekend Susan (fell/ was falling) and (broke/ was breaking) her leg
6. Who was that nice girl you (talked/ were talking) to when I (walked/ was walking) by the pub?
7. When I (entered / was entering) the cafeteria Mary (had / was having) lunch with

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