

When or While?

Using "When" and "While" in Sentences

"**When**" is used to talk about a specific point in time. It introduces a shorter action or event that happens during a longer ongoing action. Typically, the action after "when" is in the simple past tense.

For example: **When** the phone rang (*short action*), I was cooking dinner (*longer ongoing action*).

"**While**" is used to describe something that happens during a longer period of time or action. It often introduces an ongoing action in the past continuous tense and is used when two actions are happening at the same time.

For example: **While** I was cooking dinner (*first long action*), my sister was doing her homework (*second long action*).

Remember:

Use "when" for a *specific moment or short action*.

Use "while" for *ongoing actions or situations that occur at the same time*.

Complete each past continuous sentence with *when* or *while*.

- 1) _____ you the teacher was talking, I was daydreaming.
- 2) _____ they were playing soccer, I was doing my homework.
- 3) We heard a strange noise from the engine _____ we were driving to the concert.
- 4) The cat ran outside _____ she opened the door.
- 5) Li's brother was playing the guitar _____ he was studying in his room.
- 6) _____ the teacher came into the classroom, everyone got quiet.
- 7) I was eating lunch _____ you were talking on the phone.
- 8) Mary burned her hand _____ she was cooking dinner.
- 9) We were having dinner _____ the power went out.
- 10) _____ Tom was jogging in the park, his wife was making breakfast.