

Talking about past events

Simple past and past continuous

1 Choose the correct verbs to complete the sentences.

- 1 I forgot / **was forgetting** to make my bed this morning.
- 2 While we lived / **were living** in France, we got up early every day.
- 3 When I was nine years old, I had / **was having** a pet mouse.
- 4 Last weekend, I won / **was winning** a prize in a talent contest.
- 5 We didn't go out because it snowed / **was snowing**. We waited until it stopped.
- 6 Sue didn't come / **wasn't coming** to the movie theater with us, so she missed the movie.

2 Complete the sentences with the simple past or past continuous form of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 Last night, we (watch) a horror movie on TV. It was great.
- 2 Penny (not sleep) when I knocked on her door. She was still awake.
- 3 When we got to the classroom, all the other students (sit) in their chairs.
- 4 Dan (not know) who was outside. He felt scared.
- 5 It (not rain) when we left home. That's why we didn't take an umbrella.
- 6 I'm sorry. I (not see) you there.
- 7 Alicia (buy) a souvenir at the airport before she got on the plane.
- 8 While the thief (try) to climb through the window, the police arrived.

3 Complete the dialogues with the answers below.

No, she wasn't. No, we didn't. Yes, he did. Yes, they did. Yes, they were.

- 1 A Did you see the game on TV last night?
B
- 2 A Was Amira playing a computer game when you called her?
B
- 3 A Were they waiting for a long time?
B
- 4 A Did Dan do his homework?
B
- 5 A Did Harry and Joe go to the party?
B

4 Complete the questions with the simple past or past continuous form of the verbs in parentheses. Then write the answers so that they are true for you.

- 1 When (you / arrive) at school today?
I
- 2 What (your classmates / do) when you got to school?
They were
- 3 What (you / have) for dinner yesterday evening?
I
- 4 Who (you / talk) to on the phone when I saw you earlier?
I was
- 5 (it / rain) when you started doing this exercise?
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5 Complete the sentences using the simple past or past continuous.

- 1 Joe / live in Sweden, / he / meet Jenny
While Joe
- 2 I / see Karen, / she / wear a red dress
When
- 3 Dan / get home, / he / feel tired
When
- 4 we / watch TV, / we / hear a noise outside
While
- 5 she / fall, / she / not hurt herself
When

6 Complete the blog post with the simple past or past continuous form of the verbs in parentheses.

When I ¹ (be) four years old,
I ² (go) on vacation with my mom,
dad, and sister. It ³ (take) a long
time to go by car to our hotel by the ocean. So, while
we ⁴ (drive) along the highway,
we ⁵ (sing) songs because we
⁶ (not want) to fall asleep. That
was ten years ago, but I still have a clear memory of
that day, a memory of my family and me singing in
very loud voices. Last weekend, after dinner, while
I ⁷ (clear) the table and my sister
⁸ (put) the dishes in the dishwasher,
I ⁹ (remind) her of that vacation, and of my first memory. "But we
¹⁰ (not sing) one song during the whole car ride," she said. "While Dad
¹¹ (drive), you ¹² (not sing); you ¹³ (sleep).
You ¹⁴ (not wake) up until the end of the car ride." My sister is 19 now, so she
was nine years old ten years ago, and she has a better memory than me. So, it seems that my first
memory isn't true at all.



7 Put the words in the correct order to make questions. There is one extra word. Then answer the questions with your own ideas. Write full sentences.

- 1 were / do / did / what / you / last weekend / ?

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- 2 where / you / on vacation last year / did / do / go / ?

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- 3 were / daydreaming about / are / in the last class / what / you / ?

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- 4 you / ate / eat / for lunch / did / the day before yesterday / what / ?

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- 5 time / this morning / were / you / what / you / did / get up / ?

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- 6 at this time yesterday / you / what / were / did / doing / ?

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