

Past Simple or Past Continuous?

A. Do you use the past simple or past continuous in these situations? Write the letter in the correct box below.

- You want to emphasize that an action took some time.
- You want to talk about a state or situation that was true in the past.
- You want to emphasize something happened again and again over time.
- You want to emphasize change or growth over time.
- You want to talk about a one-time completed action or event. The duration isn't important.
- You want to talk about a relatively long action that was ongoing at a particular time.
- You want to talk about a repeated, completed action or event. The duration isn't important.
- You want to talk about a relatively long action that was interrupted by a shorter one.
- You want to talk about a relatively short action or event that happened during a longer one.
- You want to talk about a plan that would have been completed in the past but was changed.

Past simple	Past continuous

B. Complete the sentences in the past simple or continuous using the verbs in brackets.

- Oh man, my back (ache) all day.
- I (take) a shower when the package arrived.
- I (do) my homework after I (get) home from school.
- Her chess game (get) better slowly.
- Sorry, I didn't answer the phone before. I was driving when you (call).
- What you (do) on the night of the murder?
- I often (stop) for tea in the morning before I (get) married.
- I didn't have lunch, so I really (need) something to eat when I got home.
- He always (talk) about his bowling scores, but no one cared.
- We (plan) to buy you a cake for your birthday, but the shop was closed.

C. Match the sentences above with the situations in Exercise A.

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| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |