Past continuous & simple

Use the Past Simple and the Past Continuous to make sentences from the words in brackets ( ).

► (The police/arrive/while/I/have/breakfast)
The police arrived while I was having breakfast.

1 (The storm/start/while/they/drive/home)
.....

2 (I/see/an accident/while/I/wait/for the bus)
.....

3 (Mary/go/to several concerts/while/she/stay/in London)
.....

► (I/have/breakfast/when/the police/arrive)
I was having breakfast when the police arrived.

4 (My father/cook/the dinner/when/he/burn/his fingers)
.....

5 (The soldiers/prepare/to leave/when/the bomb/explode)
.....

Complete these texts using the Past Simple or the Past Continuous of the verbs in brackets ( ).

► Beethoven wrote ..... (write) nine symphonies; he was writing .. (write) another symphony when he died.

1 Last Saturday Tom wanted to make two salads. He ..... (make) the first one in five minutes. He ..... (make) the second one when his guests ..... (arrive), and they ..... (help) him to finish it.

2 The artist Gaudi ..... (design) several houses in Barcelona, Spain. Later he ..... (start) work on a church. He ..... (work) on the church when he ..... (die).

3 Last month a bank robber ..... (escape) while the police ..... (take) him to prison. Later they ..... (catch) him again, and this time they ..... (lock) him up without any problem.

4 Philip's football team were lucky last Saturday. After twenty minutes they ..... (lose), but in the end they ..... (win) the game by four goals to two.

5 John Lennon ..... (sing) and ..... (play) on many records with the Beatles. After that he ..... (record) several songs without the Beatles. He ..... (prepare) a new record when Mark Chapman ..... (shoot) him.

6 The evening was getting darker; the street lights ..... (come) on. People ..... (hurry) home after work. I ..... (stand) in a queue at the bus stop. Suddenly somebody ..... (grab) my bag.

LIVEWORKSHEETS