Past Simple / Past Continuous / Past Perfect Simple

A **Choose the correct answer.**

1. I heard a knock at the front door so I (went / was going) to answer it.
2. At this time yesterday, I (wrote / was writing) an essay.
3. The football season (began / was beginning) a month ago.
4. She (had graduated / graduated) from school in 2001.
5. We entered the house quietly because everyone (was sleeping / had slept).
6. By the time we (got / had got) to the cinema, the film had already started.
7. The children (were playing / played) in the garden while their parents were watching them.
8. They (had left / left) many hours before we arrived.

B **Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect Simple.**

1. They ..... (get) to the airport as the plane was landing.
2. She wore the shoes she ..... (buy) the previous day.
3. I fell as I ..... (run) for the bus.
4. What ..... she ..... (say) when he asked her to marry him?
5. When I was a student, I ..... (not have) much money.
6. Why ..... she still ..... (work) at one o'clock in the morning?
7. I was happy to see her, because we ..... (not see) each other for years.
8. By the time we got to the shop, a long queue ..... already ..... (form) outside.

C **Choose the sentence which is closer in meaning to the original.**

1. I had already seen the film but I decided to watch it again last night.
   a. I watched the film last night for the first time.
   b. Last night wasn't the first time that I had seen the film.
2. The boys were playing football while it was raining.
   a. The boys were playing football until it started to rain.
   b. The boys played football in the rain.
3. I was writing an e-mail when our computer broke down.
   a. Our computer broke down before I wrote an e-mail.
   b. I had started writing an e-mail and then our computer broke down.
4. My aunt bought me a lovely gift after she had spent the summer holiday with us.
   a. When the summer holiday was over, my aunt bought me a lovely gift.
   b. While my aunt was spending the summer holiday with us, she bought us a lovely gift.

D **Complete the passage with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.**

Until a few years ago, no one [1]. ..... (hear) of Harry Potter, the young wizard and hero of the children's book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The writer, J K Rowling, [2]. ..... (already / write) several stories and books, but this was the first book that was published. She [3]. ..... (get) the idea for the story of a wizard at magic school while she [4]. ..... (travel) on a train to London. By the time the train [5]. ..... (reach) King's Cross station, she [6]. ..... (invent) most of the characters. When the book was published in 1997, no one [7]. ..... (imagine) it would be such a tremendous success, but it quickly [8]. ..... (become) a bestseller. While millions of young readers in many countries [9]. ..... (enjoy) her first Harry Potter book, J K Rowling [10]. ..... (think) of ideas for the next book in this incredibly popular series.

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Past Simple / Past Continuous / Past Perfect Simple – Answers

A
1. went
2. was writing
3. began
4. graduated
5. was sleeping
6. got
7. were playing
8. had left

B
1. got
2. had bought
3. was running
4. did ... say
5. didn't have
6. was … working
7. hadn't seen
8. had ... formed

C
1. b
2. b
3. b
4. a

D
1. had heard
2. had already written
3. got
4. was travelling
5. reached
6. had invented
7. imagined
8. became
9. were enjoying
10. was thinking

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