

The Past Simple or Past Continuous

1. Choose the correct tense to complete the sentences.

- 1 Jake looked at the weather outside: it was grey, but it **didn't rain** / **wasn't raining**.
- 2 You didn't answer when I phoned you this morning. What **did you do** / **were you doing**?
- 3 Lucy switched off her computer, **put on** / **was putting on** her coat and **left** / **was leaving** the office.
- 4 She closed the window because some kids **made** / **were making** a lot of noise outside.
- 5 When I told my friends about the robbery, they **didn't believe** / **weren't believing** me.
- 6 She didn't hear the doorbell because she **had** / **was having** a shower.

2. Complete the sentences. Use the past simple form of one verb and the past continuous form of the other.

- 1 I (see) Henry as I (cycle) to the sports centre.
- 2 While we (prepare) the picnic, it (start) to rain.
- 3 All my friends (leave) the party when I (arrive).
- 4 As we (walk) by the river, we (hear) a shout.
- 5 We (not eat) very much while we (stay) in that hotel.
- 6 I (drink) my dad's coffee while he (not look).
- 7 She (drop) her new phone as she (put) it in her pocket.
- 8 I (meet) a really interesting person while I (wait) for the bus.

3. Complete the paragraph from a story. Use the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.



set out ask not shine was hear shine walk stop not hear

When they from the hotel at eight in the morning, the sun They along the path when suddenly Emily and , ' you something strange?' Anna replied, 'I anything. What do you mean?' A moment later, the sun and the sky black. 'It's a tornado!' Anna said. 'We need to go indoors – fast!'