

1 Read the examples. Which verb is in the past continuous? How do we form the past continuous? Then choose the correct words to complete the rules.

1 Immediately I **heard** the noise of a loud motorbike.
2 She **was waiting** at the side of the road.

a We use the past *simple / continuous* to talk about a completed action at a past time.
b We use the past *simple / continuous* to talk about actions in progress at a past time.

3 Choose the correct form of the verbs.

1 I couldn't call you. The thief **stole** / **was stealing** my phone!
2 I saw someone at your house yesterday. She **tried** / **was trying** to open your door.

3 What **did the burglars take** / **were the burglars taking**?
4 I phoned you last night but there was no answer. What **did you do** / **were you doing**?

4 Read the examples from the stories. Then complete the rules with *past simple* or *past continuous*.

1 I **was crossing** the road, when I **got out** my phone.
2 While the officers **were checking** the bikes, they **noticed** that some of them didn't have bells.
3 When we **arrived**, my brother and I **got changed** straight away and jumped in.

We often use the past continuous and the past simple together.
a The _____ talks about a past action in progress.
b The _____ talks about a completed shorter action that interrupted the action in progress.
c If one action happens after the other, we use the _____ for both actions.

5 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 I read a book when a woman screamed.
2 When I walked near the river, I saw a dog in it.
3 While we're waiting for the bus, I heard a cry.
4 He was quite tall and wears a tracksuit.

6 Complete the story with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs.

Couple find 'Goldilocks' burglar

When Martin Holtby and Pat Dyson got home from their holiday recently, they ¹ _____ (notice) something strange. Their unopened letters were on the table. While Martin ² _____ (look) around the house, he ³ _____ (find) more strange things. A man's clothes ⁴ _____ (hang) in the bathroom. Their bath was full of hot water. ⁵ _____ a burglar ⁶ _____ (live) in their house?

When Martin ⁶ _____ (go) into the bedroom, he found the answer. A man ⁷ _____ (sleep) in their bed! The couple called the police and when they ⁸ _____ (arrive), they took him away.

The man was fined £200. He didn't steal anything while he ⁹ _____ (stay) in the house. He wasn't a burglar. He thought the house was empty and he ¹⁰ _____ (need) somewhere to sleep!

