GRAMMAR Past simple and continuous

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 _____ (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!

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