

## PAST CONTINUOUS + SIMPLE PAST

We often use the **Past Continuous** with the **Simple Past** when a **long action** is interrupted by a **short action**. We use the words **WHILE** or **WHEN** to join the ideas.

**WHILE** + long action (past continuous): **I was watching TV** (this action was in progress)

**WHEN** + short action (simple past): **the earthquake started** (this action interrupted)

There are 4 basic combinations:

|              |                        |              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>While</b> | <b>Past Continuous</b> | ,            | <b>Simple Past</b>     |
| <b>When</b>  | <b>Simple Past</b>     | ,            | <b>Past Continuous</b> |
|              | <b>Simple Past</b>     | <b>while</b> | <b>Past Continuous</b> |
|              | <b>Past Continuous</b> | <b>when</b>  | <b>Simple Past</b>     |

EXAMPLES:

**While** I was watching TV, the earthquake started.

**When** the earthquake started, I was watching TV.

The earthquake started **while** I was watching TV.

I was watching TV **when** the earthquake started.

ACTIVITY 1. Complete the sentences with SIMPLE PAST or PAST CONTINUOUS of the verbs in parenthesis.

- We \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football **when** the rain \_\_\_\_\_ (start).
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (break) the vase **while** he \_\_\_\_\_ (play) ball at home.
- My mom \_\_\_\_\_ (come) in **while** I \_\_\_\_\_ (surf) on the net.
- Sandra \_\_\_\_\_ (run) **when** she \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) down the stairs.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (play) golf **when** it \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to rain.
- While** she \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a novel, her sister \_\_\_\_\_ (turn off) the lights.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) along the beach **when** they \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the accident.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ (study) in the library **when** we \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) a scary voice.
- While** she \_\_\_\_\_ (do) the ironing, her husband \_\_\_\_\_ (set) the table.
- Ricardo and I \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) **when** he \_\_\_\_\_ (fall).
- When** the thief \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) down the tree, he \_\_\_\_\_ (hide) from the police.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) outside the hospital **when** I \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) the bad news.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) **when** I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) her.
- My parents \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in the garden **while** we \_\_\_\_\_ (play) badminton.
- Bob \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) in the garden **when** it \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to rain.
- What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) **when** Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ (fall)?
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to customer service **when** the postman \_\_\_\_\_ (deliver) my package!
- While** I \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) in the river, I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) some frogs.
- Jim \_\_\_\_\_ (send) a message **when** he \_\_\_\_\_ (crash) his car into a tree.
- When** I \_\_\_\_\_ (put) the baby down, the phone \_\_\_\_\_ (rang).

**ACTIVITY 2. Complete the sentences with while or when.**

1. We were playing basketball \_\_\_\_\_ it began to rain.
2. The dog was barking \_\_\_\_\_ we were sleeping.
3. I was watching TV \_\_\_\_\_ she called.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the phone rang, she was writing a letter.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ we were having the picnic, it started to rain.
6. What were you doing \_\_\_\_\_ the earthquake started?
7. You were not listening to me \_\_\_\_\_ I told you to turn the oven off.
8. John was sleeping last night \_\_\_\_\_ someone stole his car.
9. I was just getting into the bath \_\_\_\_\_ the telephone rang.
10. Were you listening \_\_\_\_\_ he was talking?
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Ellen was reading, Tim was watching television.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ she came home from school she really didn't look well.

**ACTIVITY 3. Complete the text with past simple or past continuous.**

Today \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) not a good day. First, my alarm clock \_\_\_\_\_ (not ring). Then, while I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a shower, my dad \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to work so I had to walk to school. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) and I got very wet. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) to the classroom everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (study) in silence. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at me and said, 'Good afternoon, Luis. How nice of you to join us.' Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (laugh). I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) so embarrassed.

**ACTIVITY 4. In a Google Doc write a similar anecdote.**

- ✓ Write between 80 to 100 words.
- ✓ Use Simple Past and Past Continuous with when or while if necessary.
- ✓ Use connectors to join your ideas.
- ✓ Include the following:
  - When did it happened?
  - What happened?
  - How did you feel?