

PAST SIMPLE AND PAST CONTINUOUS || WHEN & WHILE

▶ We use the **past simple** to talk about **finished actions** and situations in the past:

- Saroo **was** a five-year-old boy.
- His family **lived** in a small village.
- He **didn't go** to school.
- Did they **have** a TV?

▶ We use the **past continuous** to talk about **activities in progress** in the past:

- He **was cleaning** a train.
- Saroo and his brother **weren't working** in a shop.
- **Was it snowing?**

▶ We can connect past actions with **when** and **while**. We usually use **when** before the past simple, and **when or while** before the past continuous.

- They **were putting** up the tent **when it started** to rain.
- I **got** a text message **while I was watching** a film.

1 Choose a verb for each sentence. Then complete the sentences using the past simple affirmative (✓) or negative (✗).

- Saul **went** to the cinema last week. ✓
- I _____ for my Maths exam last night. ✗
- My dad _____ me a fantastic birthday present. ✓
- We _____ homemade pizza last night. ✗
- My sister and I _____ to some cool music last night. ✓
- We _____ all our money on ice cream and popcorn. ✓

3 Complete the conversations with the verbs below. Use the past simple or the past continuous.

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Jay: What ¹ _____ you _____ yesterday evening? I called but you weren't at home.

Zara: We ² _____ my grandparents. Why?

Jay: I ³ _____ a spare ticket for the Adele concert.

Zara: Oh no! I love her!



Theo: Something really strange ⁴ _____ on Friday. I ⁵ _____ home when I ⁶ _____ my teacher.

Ben: Why was that strange?

Theo: He ⁷ _____ a big new sports car! It ⁸ _____ a Ferrari!

5 Match the sentence halves using when or while. (Read the box on the left!)

We were playing football **when** a dog ran onto the pitch

- We were playing football
 - Max dropped his mobile
 - Lisa was having lunch
 - The screen went blank
 - He was cooking rice
 - Jake fell asleep
- a. he was running for the bus.
b. she was writing her blog
c. a dog ran onto the pitch
d. she bit her tongue
e. he was doing his homework
f. he burned his hand.

6 Complete Nathan's dream with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

Hi, guys! I had an amazing dream last night.



I ¹ _____ (cycle) along the road. The sun ² _____ (shine) and the birds ³ _____ (sing) in the trees. But then I ⁴ _____ (notice) there weren't any other people in the road. That was weird because it was a Monday morning. I ⁵ _____ (go) past an old house when I ⁶ _____ (hear) a loud noise. I got off my bike and looked around. The front door was open so I ⁷ _____ (decide) to look inside. I ⁸ _____ (go) into the hall and ⁹ _____ (stop). While I ¹⁰ _____ (stand) there a voice from the living room said, 'Come in!'