

Past tenses with WHEN and WHILE

1 Choose the correct options.

1 **1** **was** / **were** looking in the local newspaper
2 **while** / **when** I saw that there was a Horror
Night at the cinema. I phoned a friend **3** **which** /
who loves horror films and we decided to go.
4 **When** / **While** I was waiting for him, Melanie
Hooper from my class walked **5** **along** / **past** me
and went **6** **into** / **across** the cinema.
My friend arrived and while he **7** **was** / **were**
getting the tickets, I **8** **bought** / **buy** some
popcorn. Then, we walked **9** **up** / **over** the stairs
to the place **10** **which** / **where** the horror films
were on. While we **11** **waited** / **were waiting** for
the film to start, Melanie sat next to me.

2 Complete the sentences. Write **was**, **were**, **wasn't** or **weren't**.

- 0 Sam **was** riding his bike to school
when he saw his friend Max.
- 1 What you doing when I
rang you?
- 2 I rang my mum while I waiting
for the bus.
- 3 you watching TV at 8 p.m.
last night?
- 4 Sam's mum and dad having
dinner when I called. They were at the
cinema.
- 5 I watching TV when Mum got
home, because I was doing my homework.
- 6 I was sad because my friends
..... waiting for me when I arrived
at the café.

3 Complete the sentences with the correct verb forms. Use the past simple or past continuous.

- 1 Lucy **was watching** (watch) TV when the lights
..... **went out** (go out).
- 2 I (run) towards the bus stop when
the bus (arrive).
- 3 Tim and Jack (break) a window
while they (play) football in
the garden.
- 4 I (drop) my knife and fork on the
floor while I (have) dinner at
the restaurant.
- 5 While Mr Richards (sleep), a thief
..... (come) into his house through the
kitchen window.
- 6 I (see) an accident while I
..... (wait) for a bus.