SIMPLE PAST – PAST CONTINOUS

SIMPLE PAST: AFFIRMATIVE FORM

I	watched	TV last night.
You	played	cards with me.
He	washed	his car.
She	met	the new teacher.
It	ran	fast.
We	bought	a new house.
You	played	cards.
They	drank	coffee.

PAST CONTINUOUS: AFFIRMATIVE FORM

I	was	watching	TV.
You	were	playing	cards with me.
He	was	washing	his car.
She	was	meeting	the new teacher.
It	was	running	fast.
We	were	buying	a new house.
You	were	playing	cards.
They	were	drinking	coffee.

I, he, she, it → WAS

we, you, they → WERE

SIMPLE PAST: NEGATIVE FORM

I	didn't	watch	TV last night.
You	didn't	play	cards with me.
He	didn't	wash	his car.
She	didn't	meet	the new teacher.
It	didn't	run	fast.
We	didn't	buy	a new house.
You	didn't	play	cards.
They	didn't	drink	coffee.

didn't + infinitive verb

PAST CONTINUOUS: NEGATIVE FORM

I	wasn't	watching	TV.
You	weren't	playing	cards with me.
He	wasn't	washing	his car.
She	wasn't	meeting	the new teacher.
It	wasn't	running	fast.
We	weren't	buying	a new house.
You	weren't	playing	cards.
They	weren't	drinking	coffee.

SIMPLE PAST: INTERROGATIVE FORM

Did	I	watch	TV last night?
Did	You	play	cards with me?
Did	He	wash	his car?
Did	She	meet	the new teacher?
Did	It	run	fast?
Did	We	buy	a new house?
Did	You	play	cards?
Did	They	drink	coffee?

Did + SUBJECT + infinitive verb

PAST CONTINUOUS: INTERROGATIVE FORM

Was	I	watching	TV?
Were	You	playing	cards with me?
Was	He	washing	his car?
Was	She	meeting	the new teacher?
Was	It	running	fast?
Were	We	buying	a new house?
Were	You	playing	cards?
Were	They	drinking	coffee?

WAS → I, he, she, it

WERE → you, we, they

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Complete the sentences with the PAST CONTINUOUS form of the verbs in brackets.

1 I _____ (make) my dinner at 8 o'clock last night.

2 Joe and Sam _____ (use) the wrong program in IT yesterday.

3 Who was that guy you _____ (dance) with at the party?

4 Paula _____ (come) home from school when she saw an accident.

5 In 1999 my father _____ (live) in Dublin. That's where he met my mother.

6 He _____ (open) the box when he cut his finger.

7 This time last week, we _____ (visit) my grandmother.

8 I _____ (sit) at the back of the classroom so I couldn't see the screen.

9 Andrew _____ (insert) a photo into his document when the teacher stopped the class.

10 I _____ (start) to do my homework when my friend sent me a message.

2 Complete Tom's email with the PAST CONTINUOUS form of the verbs in brackets.

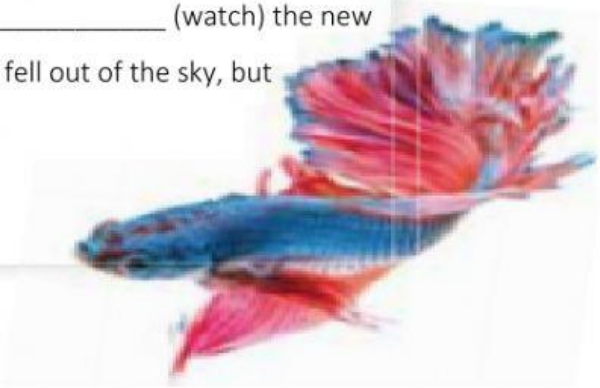
Hi Emma!

Something really strange happened to me today. I (1) _____ (walk) home from school and suddenly lots of fish started falling out of the sky. I couldn't believe it! It (2) _____ (rain) fish! Where (3) _____ they _____ (come) from?

I went home and told my mum and brother, but they said I (4) _____ (not tell) the truth. However, that evening, my mum and dad (5) _____ (watch) the new on TV and they heard the story. Nobody knows why the fish fell out of the sky, but they did. I (6) _____ (not lie)!

See you soon,

Tom



LIVEWORKSHEETS

PAST SIMPLE AND PAST CONTINUOUS

3 Look at the table, then copy and complete rules a) and b) with when and while.

past continuous and past simple
Matt was climbing Everest when there was an earthquake.
While the ground was shaking they suddenly saw a 'wall' of snow.

a) We usually use the past simple after _____

b) We usually use the past continuous after _____

4 Write sentences using the PAST SIMPLE and PAST CONTINUOUS.

Jay's mum / cook / when / she / hear a shout.

Jay's mum was cooking when she heard a shout.

1 His brother / eat / when / the lights / go out.

_____

2 His dad / walk down the street / when / the ground / move.

_____

3 Jay's sister / talk to her friends / when / somebody / shout 'Earthquake!'

_____

4 His grandparents / watch TV / when / everything / fall off the shelves.

_____

5 Complete the email with the correct form of PAST SIMPLE and PAST CONTINUOUS.

Hi Ingrid!

We're having lots of adventures on our holiday. While we (1) _____ (stay) at a campsite near a river, we (2) _____ (have) a terrible experience. There (3) _____ (be) a flood while we (4) _____ (sleep). When we (5) _____ (wake up), we (6) _____ (be) wet.

Hope you're having a good summer!

Jack

LIVEWORKSHEETS