TOPIC 2: PAST SIMPLE AND PAST CONTINUOUS

I. Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

1. While I ***washed / was washing*** my hair, the phone ***rang / ringed***.
2. How ***did you felt / did you feel*** yesterday afternoon?
3. When I ***got / was getting*** home I ***received / was receiving*** a phone call.
4. Last summer I ***was going swimming / went swimming*** every weekend.
5. When the dog ***bit / was biting*** Laura's leg, she screamed / was screaming.
6. We ***sang /sung*** some songs and then ***ate / eat*** some sandwiches.
7. When you ***fell / felt*** over the cliff, what ***happened / was happening*** next?
8. While Mary ***washed -up / was washing-up***, she ***broke / was breaking*** a cup.
9. I didn't ***see / saw*** where the bus stop was, so I ***was missing / missed*** the bus.
10. What ***did you do / were you doing*** when I ***phoned / was phoning*** you last night? There was no reply.

II. Complete each sentence with a suitable time expression from the box. You can use an expression more than once.

ago	**in**	**last week**	**at**	**when**	**while**

1. A burglar broke into the house ___***while***___ we were watching television.
2. _____ I met an old friend of mine in the city centre.
3. What were you doing _____ the police officer knocked on the door?
4. Jan met Sarah _____ half-past eight outside the cinema.
5. _____ Dick was preparing lunch, he cut his finger badly.
6. I first came to this town more than twenty years _____.
7. Jeff was studying to be a doctor _____ he met Sally.
8. Tony bought his first motorbike _____ 1992.
9. _____ did you start playing basketball?
10. Most of the young people left this village a long time _____.

III. Complete these sentences by putting the verbs into the past simple or the past continuous.

1. When Harry (wake up) _____, we (tell) _____ him the news.
2. Everyone (wait) _____ for the concert to begin when a message (arrive) _____.
3. Charlotte (want) _____ a relaxing holiday, so she (choose) _____ to stay on a small island.
4. When Roberto (study) _____ in America, his parents (phone) _____ him every week.
5. I (find) _____ my pen while I (look for) _____ my bag.
6. Ann (watch) _____ a film on television when Julie (arrive) _____.
7. When the lights (go out) _____, I (lie) _____ in bed reading.
8. When you (go) _____ to the new Chinese restaurant, what (you eat) _____?

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IV. Complete these sentences by putting the verbs into the past simple or the past continuous.

1. Do you like this picture? My uncle _____ it. (paint)
2. We _____ lunch when we heard the new. (have)
3. He broke his arm when he _____ rugby. (play)
4. Kylie _____ her first film when she was 21. (make)
5. _____ the football match yesterday? (you see)
6. I _____ on the computer when the earthquake happened. (work)
7. Who was that man you _____ to when I came in? (talk)
8. She was so tired that she _____ for twelve hours. (sleep)
9. The fire _____ the old church completely. (destroy)
10. I _____ in the queue when the robber came in. (wait)
11. I _____ a bath when she phone. (have)
12. They _____ on the door, then they went in. (knock)
13. Mark and Theresa _____ in Poland for many years. (live)
14. The police _____ them lots of questions before they released them (ask)
15. We _____ tea when they arrived. (have)
16. What _____ when the alarm sounded? (you do)
17. The factory _____ six thousand cars last year. (make)
18. She _____ anything to my parents. (not say)
19. James _____ through the forest when the storm started. (walk)

V. Complete the story below by putting the verbs in the past simple or past continuous. Sometimes both tenses are possible. Choose the one that is most likely.

He stopped just before putting his key in the front door. Something was happening in the back garden. Quietly, he crept around the side of the house and (look) _____ through the gate. Two men (stand) _____ at the back of the house, holding a ladder. A third man was at the top of the ladder, and a fourth inside the house: he (pass) _____ furniture through the window to his partner, who (give) _____ it to his friends below. All four (work) _____ quietly and efficiently, and the pile of furniture in the garden (get) _____ bigger by the minute. Derek (cannot) _____ believe his eyes: the team of strangers (empty) _____ his entire flat, and they (behave) _____ as if this was the most normal thing in the world! He (cough) _____ loudly, and then (say) _____ 'Excuse me!' – and the man at the top of the ladder (drop) _____ his portable TV onto the concrete below.

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