PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

We use the past continuous tense to emphasize the continuity of an action in the past.
e.g. I was flying to London yesterday morning.
We can see this tense in compound sentences with another verb in the simple past tense.
We usually use ***when, while*** to join these sentences.
e.g. I was washing the dishes when they arrived at home.
We also use this tense to set the scene for a story.
e.g It was the first day of spring. The sun was shining while the clouds were floating in the sky.

Time expressions: when
while
as
just as
yesterday
last year, last month
two days ago

a. *The telephone rang while we were watching TV.*
b. *He was going home when the accident happened.*
c. *Where were you going at four o 'clock yesterday afternoon?*

Affirmative form	Subject + was / were + verb (ing) + complement.
	He was writing a letter last night.
Negative form	Subject + wasn't / weren't + verb (ing) + complement.
	He wasn't writing a letter last night.
Question form	Was / were + subject + verb (ing) + complement?
	Was he writing a letter last night?
Negative Question Form	Wasn't / weren't + subject + verb (ing) + complement?
	Wasn't he writing a letter last night?

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs.

1. They ***..... (stay)*** in Erdek at this time last summer.
2. She paid the bill while you..... ***(talk)*** to the waiter.
3. When Mr. Enfield got home last night, the telephone..... .....***(ring)***.
4. *What*.....you..... ***(do)*** when I saw you in the Held?
5. While Herman..... ***(mend)*** his bicycle in the garden, his mother called him.
6. Why didn't you listen to the teacher while she.....***(try)*** to explain the lesson?
7. As I.....***(talk)*** to her, I noticed that her face was pale.

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8. We..... ***(play)*** backgammon when my father came.

9. Clara..... ***(tidy)*** her new room when her mother came back.

10. When Mrs. Hyde heard the explosion, she……..... ***(get)*** ready to leave.

THE PAST SIMPLE AND PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

• We often use the simple past tense and the past continuous tense together in a sentence.
• We use the past continuous tense for the longer, unfinished action and the simple past tense for the shorter, interrupting action.
• We use *when*, *while*, *as*, *just* as to join the sentences.
when = at that time
while / as = during that time

While / as + past continuous, past simple
While I was trying to put my baby to sleep, the doorbell rang.
As I was walking along the street, it suddenly started to rain.
Someone knocked the door while the teacher was checking our exam papers.

When + past simple, past continuous
When I saw Sue, I was waiting for the bus.

• We also use the past continuous with "*while*" to talk about two actions in progress at the same time in the past.
My mother was chopping the meat while I was peeling the potatoes.

• We use the simple past tense with "*when*" to say that one thing happened after another.
When my father arrived, we had our dinner. (First my father arrived and then we started to have our dinner).

Attention: We don't use the past continuous tense with stative verbs (know, want, love etc…)
They were good friends. They knew each other well.

Attention: "***Just as***" has similar meaning with ***while*** and ***as***, but if the interrupting, shorter event happen right after the longer one, we prefer ***just as*** instead of ***as*** or ***while***.
Just as I was leaving home, I realised that I had forgotten my car key.

A. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1. Peter _____ (work) at a fast food restaurant last month.
2. My classmates and I _____ (be) at the cinema yesterday evening. The movie _____ (be) great.
3. My best friend and I _____(not/ dance) at the party last Saturday.
4. This time last year I _____ (surf) in Miami.
5. When we_____ (hear) the alarm, we _____ (shop).
6. I_____ (run into) a friend while I _____(walk) to school.
7. Bill _____(break) his leg while he _____ (play) baseball.
8. While he _____ (ride) in the forest, he_____ (feel) something strange behind his shoulders. He immediately _____ (stop) his horse and _____ (look) around.

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B. Put the verbs in brackets into the simple past or the past continuous tense.

1. The car_____ (go) fast when it _____(hit) the pole.

2. Just as I _____(wear) my contact lenses, I_____ (drop) one of them.

3. Who _____ you_____ (talk) to when I _____ (call) you?

4. While my father _____ (read) his newspaper, my mother _____ (iron) the clothes.

5. When the electricity_____(go off), the lift_____ (stop)

6. As I _____ (climb) the stairs fast, I _____(fall) down

C. Make sentences using the prompts.

1. Ralph/ swim in the sea/ he/ see a dolphin
While_____

2. the girls/ walk by the lake/ they/ meet Joe
While_____

3. Sally/ hear the gunshot/ she/ read in bed
When_____

4. my cousin/ find the cat/ he/ go to the gym
When_____

5. the man/ wait for a bus/ someone/ kill him
While _____

D. ***ASK QUESTION***

1. *Jeff's sister was writing a letter to her pen-friend last night.*

   a. *(Jeff's sister)……...?*
   b. *(Jeff's) ……?*
   c. *(a letter) ……?*
   d. *(to her pen-friend)……...?*
   e. *(last night) ……?*
   f. *(was writing a letter to her pen-friend) ……...?*

2. *Begüm's brother was painting the walls yesterday.*

   a. *(Begüm's brother)* .....?
   b. *(Begüm's)* ....?
   c. *(the walls)* .....?
   d. *(yesterday)* .....?
   e. *(was painting the walls)* .....?

E. *Rewrite the following sentences, using* ***the Past Continuous Tense.***

1. The children are going to sleep in the afternoon.

The children were sleeping in the afternoon.

2. Can you solve the difficult problems?

.....

3. Where are you waiting for your friends?

.....

4. How many apples can the girls carry in their baskets?

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.....

5. The thieves run away when they sec the police.

.....

6. My parents have breakfast when I get up.

.....

7. The sun rises when Helen gets up in the morning.

.....

8. Is Mr. Dickson helping the poor man?

.....

9. Where did they play volleyball?

.....

10. Her mother is going to make a cake for her birthday.

.....

"Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere."

— Albert Einstein

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