

Past simple & past continuous

- a) Study this chart and complete the examples below with the correct form of the verbs in brackets:

While As When	past continuous (action in progress) S + was / were + V-ing	past continuous (simultaneous actions) S + was / were + V-ing
		past simple (short action that interrupts an action in progress) S + V-ed

- 1 While the teacher _____ some examples on the blackboard, my classmates and I _____ out of the window at the snow which _____. (write / look / fall)
- 2 When I _____ my homework my friend Kevin _____ me to ask me if I _____ anything interesting, because he and some friends _____ football later and they needed a goalkeeper. (do / phone / do / play)

When	past simple (finished action) S + V-ed	past simple (consecutive actions) S + V-ed
		past continuous (action in progress that started before the second action) S + was / were + V-ing

3 When I _____ my homework I _____
Kevin and he _____ me where they
_____ for me. (finish / phone / tell / wait)

4 When the cowboy _____ the saloon, four men
_____ poker and another man _____
whisky at the bar. The bartender _____ at him, but
he _____. (enter / play / drink / look / not smile)

b) Use the **past simple** or the **past continuous** to fill in the gaps with the correct tense of the verbs in brackets. Sometimes both may be possible.

5. A bird _____ over
us when we _____
with a rope, but we
_____ it because
all of us _____
down. (fly / play / not see / look)



6. While Helen _____
on her computer, her little
daughter _____ a
videgame. The girl
_____ on her
knees on the floor, but Helen
_____ on a chair.
(work / play / sit / sit)



7. At twelve o'clock the woman
_____ on the beach.
She _____ on a blue
towel. They _____
some music on the radio. She
_____ lemon juice.
(sunbathe / lie / play / drink)





8. Susan and Bob

_____ a tree
yesterday. First, Bob
_____ a hole while
Susan _____ the
tree, then she
_____ it in the hole
and he _____ it.
(plant / dig / hold / put / water)

9. Maggie _____ her
dog when suddenly it
_____ another
dog and _____
towards it, very happy. Maggie
_____ when she
_____ the dog's
owner. (walk / see / run / smile /
recognise)



10. My father _____
this photo yesterday. As you
can see, my brother and I
_____ dinner. My
mother _____ to
us what we _____
to do. They _____
that our dinner
_____ delicious
– especially the salad. (take /
make / explain / have / say / be)

