

# Past Simple and Past Continuous

I. Use the words in the box to complete the uses for Past Simple and Past Continuous

|             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| PARALLEL    | FINISHED    | IN PROGRESS |
| INTERRUPTED | EXPERIENCES | SERIES      |

## Past Simple

1) Actions which started in the past and \_\_\_\_\_ in the past

Last weekend, mum COOKED a tasty meal for the family.

2) Past \_\_\_\_\_

When she was young, she WORKED as a nurse at the hospital.

3) A \_\_\_\_\_ of past actions that happened one after another.

Dad ATE breakfast, GOT dressed, SAID goodbye, then DROVE to work.

## Time Words

THREE HOURS AGO

LAST WEEK / MONTH / YEAR

YESTERDAY

IN 2005

## Past Continuous

1) Actions which were \_\_\_\_\_ at a specific time in the past

Yesterday at 2 o'clock, mum WAS COOKING a tasty meal for the family.

2) A long action \_\_\_\_\_ by a short action in the past

I WAS WORKING in the yard when it started to rain.

3) Two actions happening at the same time or in \_\_\_\_\_ in the past

Dad WAS EATING while mum WAS CLEANING the kitchen.

## Time Words

YESTERDAY AT 3 O'CLOCK

THIS TIME TWO DAYS AGO

AT HALF PAST FIVE LAST MONDAY

II. Look at the sentences below and answer the questions:

I was doing my homework when the phone rang.

While I was doing my homework, the phone rang.



- |                                                |                               |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Do these sentences mean the same thing?     | YES / NO                      |
| 1) Which action is longer?                     | WAS DOING / RANG              |
| 2) Which action is shorter?                    | WAS DOING / RANG              |
| 3) What tense do we use for the longer action? | PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS |
| 4) What tense do we use for the short action?  | PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS |
| 5) What word introduces the short action?      | WHEN / WHILE                  |
| 6) What word introduces the long action?       | WHEN / WHILE                  |

We use **Past Simple and Past Continuous** together when we want to show that a long action was *interrupted* by a short action in the past

**WHILE** → followed by **Past Continuous**

**WHEN** → followed by **Past Simple**

While I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) dinner, I \_\_\_\_\_ (cut) my finger.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) dinner when I \_\_\_\_\_ (cut) my finger.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (break) a vase while I \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the living room.

While I \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the living room, I \_\_\_\_\_ (break) a vase.

When I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) you on the street, you \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) your dog.

You \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) your dog when I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) you on the street.

III. Look at the sentences below and answer the questions:

I was doing my homework while my sister was listening to music.

While I was doing homework, my sister was listening to music.



1) Do these sentences mean the same thing?

YES / NO

2) Were these actions happening at the same time?

YES / NO

3) What tense do we use for both these actions?

PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS

4) What word shows that the actions were happening  
at the same time?

WHEN / WHILE

**When we want to say that two actions were happening at the same time in the past, we use Past Continuous for both actions.**

Past Continuous

WHILE

Past Continuous

**While** I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) dinner, my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (set) the table.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) dinner **while** my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (set) the table.

My dog \_\_\_\_\_ (play) outside **while** I \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to music.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to music **while** my dog \_\_\_\_\_ (play) outside.

**While** he \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) on the street, the dog \_\_\_\_\_ (sniff) around..

The dog \_\_\_\_\_ (sniff) around **while** he \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) on the street.