Past simple and continuous – progress check

A. Choose which verb tense (simple past or past continuous) fits better.

1. I _____ - I didn't hear you come in.
a) was sleeping b) slept
2. I _____ to see her twice, but she wasn't home.
a) was coming b) came
3. What _____? I was watching TV.
a) did you do b) were you doing
4. Robin Hood was a character who _____ from the rich and gave to the poor.
a) stole b) was stealing
5. Hey, did you talk to her? Yes, I ___ to her
a) was talking b) talked

B. Read the story and answer the following questions.

A DISASTROUS DINNER

Last Friday, Mrs. Anderson planned to have a delicious dinner. She bought a T-bone steak and some cream and apples for an apple pie. When she came home from the shops she put her shopping on the table. While she was setting the table, her two pets sat underneath it and watched her. Then she went to the kitchen to make the pastry for the pie. She was a little forgetful so she didn't realize the steak, cream and apples were still on the table. While she was making the pastry, the dog jumped on a chair and looked longingly at the steak. At last it took the steak in its mouth and jumped off the chair, just as Mrs. Anderson was coming back into the dining room. Mrs. Anderson screamed, but the dog ran into the garden. She ran after the dog. While she was chasing the dog, the cat jumped on the table and started drinking the cream. Mrs. Anderson didn't manage to catch the dog, and she came back into the dining room. When she saw the cat, she shrieked, and the cat got such a fright that it jumped a meter into the air, and leapt out the window. Mrs. Anderson threw her broom at the cat, but she missed, and broke the window. At the same time, she overbalanced and put her hand in the cream, spilling it all over the tablecloth. Poor Mrs.
Anderson - she had no dinner, only a dirty tablecloth and a broken window.
Glossary: set the table - put knives and forks, plates, salt etc. on the table., underneath - under it., longingly - e.g. the dog wanted it but knew it couldn't have it., shriek - louder than scream., get a fright - suddenly (not the same as be frightened)., overbalance - to lose your balance and fall.

Answer in complete sentences.

1. What did Mrs. Anderson plan?
3. When did her pets watch her?
5. When did the dog jump on the chair?
7. When did the dog jump off the chair?
9. What was she doing when the cat jumped on the table?

C. Activity 3 Complete the following sentences with the correct form (Past Simple or Past Continuous).

1. A: What (you, do) _____ when you heard that noise?
B: I (try) _____ to change a light bulb that had burnt out.
3. The doctor (say) _____ that Brian (be) _____ too weak to go to work and that he (need) _____ to stay at home for a couple of days.
5. John is in the living room working on his computer. At this time yesterday, he (work, also) _____ on his computer. That's all he ever does!

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7. When I (walk) _____ into the busy office, the secretaries (talk)_____ on the phone with customers, a clerk (work, busily)_____ at his desk, and two managers (discuss, quietly) _____ methods to improve customer service.
9. Samantha (be) _____ in the room when Bob (tell) _____ me what happened, but she didn't hear anything because she (be, listen) _____ to music.

D. Activity 4
Find the Past Simple of the following verbs:
Work _____
Walk _____
Talk _____
Clean _____
Live _____
Wash _____

Complete what Jenny says using the following verbs in the Past Continuous:
Jenny is telling her teacher why she couldn't study for an exam.

watch listen sing clean cook play lie

It was impossible for me to concentrate! I went to my bedroom and my mother _____ the carpet with the vacuum cleaner. Then I went to the living room but my brother Paul _____on the sofa. He _____ his guitar. After that I decided to go to the kitchen. There, my grandmother _____ and she _____ also_____ TV. Finally, I went out to the garden where I found my sister. She _____ to her Walkman and she _____ at the top of her voice.

E. Activity 5 Write the correct form of the verb, using the Past Simple or the Past Continuous tense.
A:I _____ (see) Peter and John in the park on Sunday.
B:_____ (they/play) football? They always play football on Sundays.
A: No, they _____ (not/be). They _____ (talk) with some girls.
B:_____ (you/say) hello to them?
A. Although I _____ (call) their names, they_____ (not/hear) me. They _____(laugh)
B: Maybe they _____ (not/notice) you _____ (be) there.

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