

## PAST CONTINUOUS + SIMPLE PAST

We often use the **Past Continuous** with the **Simple Past** when a **long action** is interrupted by a **short action**. We use the words **WHILE** or **WHEN** to join the ideas.

**WHILE** + long action (past continuous): **I was watching TV** (this action was in progress)

**WHEN** + short action (simple past): **the earthquake started** (this action interrupted)

There are 4 basic combinations:

While	Past Continuous	,	Simple Past
When	Simple Past	,	Past Continuous
Simple Past		while	Past Continuous
Past Continuous	when		Simple Past

EXAMPLES:

**While I was watching TV**, the earthquake started.

**When the earthquake started**, I was watching TV.

The earthquake started **while I was watching TV**.

I was watching TV **when the earthquake started**.

ACTIVITY 1. Complete the sentences with SIMPLE PAST or PAST CONTINUOUS of the verbs in parenthesis.

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football **when** the rain \_\_\_\_\_ (start).
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ (break) the vase **while** he \_\_\_\_\_ (play) ball at home.
3. My mom \_\_\_\_\_ (come) in **while** I \_\_\_\_\_ (surf) on the net.
4. Sandra \_\_\_\_\_ (run) **when** she \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) down the stairs.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (play) golf **when** it \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to rain.
6. **While** she \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a novel, her sister \_\_\_\_\_ (turn off) the lights.
7. They \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) along the beach **when** they \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the accident.
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ (study) in the library **when** we \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) a scary voice.
9. **While** she \_\_\_\_\_ (do) the ironing, her husband \_\_\_\_\_ (set) the table.
10. Ricardo and I \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) **when** he \_\_\_\_\_ (fall).
11. **When** the thief \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) down the tree, he \_\_\_\_\_ (hide) from the police.
12. I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) outside the hospital **when** I \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) the bad news.
13. She \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) **when** I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) her.
14. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in the garden **while** we \_\_\_\_\_ (play) badminton.
15. Bob \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) in the garden **when** it \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to rain.
16. What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) **when** Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ (fall)?
17. I \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to costumer service **when** the postman \_\_\_\_\_ (deliver) my package!
18. **While** I \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) in the river, I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) some frogs.
19. Jim \_\_\_\_\_ (send) a message **when** he \_\_\_\_\_ (crash) his car into a tree.
20. **When** I \_\_\_\_\_ (put) the baby down, the phone \_\_\_\_\_ (rang).

**ACTIVITY 2. Complete the sentences with **while** or **when**.**

1. We were playing basketball \_\_\_\_\_ it began to rain.
2. The dog was barking \_\_\_\_\_ we were sleeping.
3. I was watching TV \_\_\_\_\_ she called.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the phone rang, she was writing a letter.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ we were having the picnic, it started to rain.
6. What were you doing \_\_\_\_\_ the earthquake started?
7. You were not listening to me \_\_\_\_\_ I told you to turn the oven off.
8. John was sleeping last night \_\_\_\_\_ someone stole his car.
9. I was just getting into the bath \_\_\_\_\_ the telephone rang.
10. Were you listening \_\_\_\_\_ he was talking?
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Ellen was reading, Tim was watching television.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ she came home from school she really didn't look well.

**ACTIVITY 3. Complete the text with past simple or past continuous.**

Today \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) not a good day. First, my alarm clock \_\_\_\_\_ (not ring). Then, while I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a shower, my dad \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to work so I had to walk to school. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) and I got very wet. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) to the classroom everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (study) in silence. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at me and said, 'Good afternoon, Luis. How nice of you to join us.' Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (laugh). I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) so embarrassed.

**ACTIVITY 4. In a Google Doc write a similar anecdote.**

- ✓ Write between 80 to 100 words.
- ✓ Use Simple Past and Past Continuous with when or while if necessary.
- ✓ Use connectors to join your ideas.
- ✓ Include the following:
  - When did it happened?
  - What happened?
  - How did you feel?