

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.

- We _____ (play) football **when** the rain _____ (start).
- He _____ (break) the vase **while** he _____ (play) ball at home.
- My mom _____ (come) in **while** I _____ (surf) on the net.
- Sandra _____ (run) **when** she _____ (fall) down the stairs.
- I _____ (play) golf **when** it _____ (begin) to rain.
- While** she _____ (read) a novel, her sister _____ (turn off) the lights.
- They _____ (walk) along the beach **when** they _____ (see) the accident.
- We _____ (study) in the library **when** we _____ (hear) a scary voice.
- While** she _____ (do) the ironing, her husband _____ (set) the table.
- Ricardo and I _____ (dance) **when** he _____ (fall).
- When** the thief _____ (fall) down the tree, he _____ (hide) from the police.
- I _____ (wait) outside the hospital **when** I _____ (hear) the bad news.
- She _____ (cry) **when** I _____ (see) her.
- My parents _____ (sit) in the garden **while** we _____ (play) badminton.
- Bob _____ (lie) in the garden **when** it _____ (start) to rain.
- What _____ you _____ (do) **when** Daniel _____ (fall)?
- I _____ (talk) to customer service **when** the postman _____ (deliver) my package!
- While** I _____ (swim) in the river, I _____ (see) some frogs.
- Jim _____ (send) a message **when** he _____ (crash) his car into a tree.
- 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 happen?
 - What happened?
 - How did you feel?