

# Past Simple vs. Past Progressive

**TASK A.** Make the past simple or Past Progressive according to each sentence:

1. What (you/do) \_\_\_\_\_ when I (call) \_\_\_\_\_ you last night?
2. I (sit) \_\_\_\_\_ in a cafe when you (call) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When you (arrive) \_\_\_\_\_ at the party, who (be) \_\_\_\_\_ there?
4. Susie (watch) \_\_\_\_\_ a film when she (hear) \_\_\_\_\_ the noise.
5. Yesterday I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to the library, next I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ a swim, later I (meet) \_\_\_\_\_ Julie for coffee.
6. We (play) \_\_\_\_\_ tennis when John (hurt) \_\_\_\_\_ his ankle.
7. What (they/do) \_\_\_\_\_ at 10pm last night - it was really noisy?
8. He (take) \_\_\_\_\_ a shower when the telephone (ring).
9. He (be) \_\_\_\_\_ in the shower when the telephone (ring) \_\_\_\_\_.
10. When I (walk) \_\_\_\_\_ into the room, everyone (work) \_\_\_\_\_.
11. It (be) \_\_\_\_\_ a day last September. The sun (shine) \_\_\_\_\_ and the birds(sing) \_\_\_\_\_.  
I (walk) \_\_\_\_\_ along the street when I (meet) \_\_\_\_\_ an old friend.
12. He (live) \_\_\_\_\_ in Russia when the Revolution (start) \_\_\_\_\_.
13. When her train (get) \_\_\_\_\_ to the station, we (wait) \_\_\_\_\_ on the platform.
14. He (be) \_\_\_\_\_ so annoying! He (always leave) \_\_\_\_\_ his things everywhere.
15. On holiday we (visit) \_\_\_\_\_ Rome, (see) \_\_\_\_\_ the Vatican, and (spend) \_\_\_\_\_ a few days at the beach.
16. Why (you/stand) \_\_\_\_\_ on a chair when I (come) \_\_\_\_\_ into the room?
17. They (live) \_\_\_\_\_ in Germany when they (be) \_\_\_\_\_ young.
18. At 7pm yesterday, we (listen) \_\_\_\_\_ to music.
19. When I (leave) \_\_\_\_\_ the house, it (snow) \_\_\_\_\_.
20. He (work) \_\_\_\_\_ in a bank when he (meet) \_\_\_\_\_ his wife.

**TASK B.** Put the verbs into the correct tense (Simple Past or Past Progressive):

1. When I (get) \_\_\_\_\_ up yesterday, the sun (shine) \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It (is) \_\_\_\_\_ a beautiful morning.
3. So I (decide) \_\_\_\_\_ cycle around a little.

4. I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to the shed and (take) \_\_\_\_\_ out my bike.
5. While I (cycle) \_\_\_\_\_ past some villages, I (see) \_\_\_\_\_ some people in their gardens.
6. One man (mow) \_\_\_\_\_ the grass while his wife (pick) \_\_\_\_\_ strawberries.
7. After one hour of cycling in sunshine, a big fat raincloud suddenly (appear) \_\_\_\_\_ and it (start) \_\_\_\_\_ to rain.
8. Luckily, a farmer (notice) \_\_\_\_\_ me and (tell) \_\_\_\_\_ me to come in.
9. While it (rain) \_\_\_\_\_ outside, I (sit) \_\_\_\_\_ in the farmer's house.
10. After a while, the sun (come) \_\_\_\_\_ out again.
11. I (thank) \_\_\_\_\_ the farmer for his hospitality and (move) \_\_\_\_\_ on.

**TASK C. Put the verbs into the correct tense (simple past or past progressive).**

1. When I (do) \_\_\_\_\_ the washing-up, I (break) \_\_\_\_\_ a plate.
2. While Tom (play) \_\_\_\_\_ the piano, his mother (do) \_\_\_\_\_ the washing-up.
3. He (drink) \_\_\_\_\_ some juice and then he (eat) \_\_\_\_\_ a few chips.
4. I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ dinner when I suddenly (hear) \_\_\_\_\_ a loud bang.
5. When my father (work) \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden, an old friend (pass) \_\_\_\_\_ by to see him.
6. She (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to school, (take) \_\_\_\_\_ out her textbook and (begin) \_\_\_\_\_ to learn.
7. When it (start) \_\_\_\_\_ to rain, our dog (want) \_\_\_\_\_ to come inside.
8. When Jane (do) \_\_\_\_\_ a language course in Ireland, she (visit) \_\_\_\_\_ Blarney Castle.
9. When I (be) \_\_\_\_\_ on my way home, I (see) \_\_\_\_\_ an accident.
10. I (not / understand) \_\_\_\_\_ what they (talk) \_\_\_\_\_ about.

**TASK D. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb (verb-ed / to be + verb-ing)**

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ (play) volleyball with Mary, when you \_\_\_\_\_ (call) me.
2. When the teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (come) in, they \_\_\_\_\_ (study) English.
3. The baby \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) when the telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (ring).
4. As I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) in the streets of Holland, I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) an old friend of mine.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) my car keys.
6. I was looking for my purse when I \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) my credit card.
7. My uncle \_\_\_\_\_ (take) me to the airport yesterday.
8. She \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) when she hurt her ankle.
9. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) heavily when I got up.
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the thief while he \_\_\_\_\_ (get) into my neighbor's house.

