Past Simple and Past Continuous



1 Choose the correct words.

A BAD DAY FOR CHARLIE

The weather was awful! It (1) **rained / was raining**, and Charlie (2) **hurried / was hurrying** to get home. He (3) **held / was holding** his umbrella tightly when the wind (4) **blew / was blowing** it away. Then he (5) **stepped / was stepping** into a puddle of water. He (6) **shook / was shaking** his feet to get the water out of his shoes when a bus (7) **drove / was driving** past and (8) **splashed / was splashing** him from head to toe. Poor Charlie! He was wet and cold, and he (9) had / **was having** a headache. When he finally (10) **arrived / was arriving** at his home, a nasty surprise (11) **waited / was waiting** for him – the front door was open. (12) **Did he forget / Was he forgetting** to close and lock it in the morning? He couldn't remember, but when he (13) **walked / was walking** into the living room, his TV, computer and stereo were gone!

2 Tick the sentence if the verb in bold is in the correct tense. Write it correctly if it is wrong.

1 'What **were you doing** when you heard the explosion?' 'I jumped out of my bed!' _____
2 While Miranda was watching TV, she **had** a brilliant idea. _____
3 It was late when I called my friend Simon last night, but he **didn't sleep**. _____
4 Mario's teacher was impressed because his English **was improving** very quickly. _____
5 What an awful day! The wind **blew** and the rain was coming down hard. _____
6 'Where **did you go** when I saw you yesterday?' 'To my grandmother's house.' _____

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple or the past continuous.

1 _____ (**he / clean**) the bathroom when he _____ (**slip**) and _____ (**fall**)?
2 I don't know what's wrong. The washing machine _____ (**work**) and then it suddenly _____ (**stop**).
3 'I _____ (**send**) her a text message, but she _____ (**not reply**).' 'Maybe she _____ (**help**) her mum in the garden and _____ (**not hear**) it.'
4 When I _____ (**look**) for information about ancient Rome, I _____ (**learn**) that poor people _____ (**not have**) bathrooms in their homes.
5 The children _____ (**not watch**) television when I _____ (**arrive**) last night – they _____ (**be**) already in bed.
6 When I was younger, my family _____ (**go**) to Greece every year for our summer holiday and we always _____ (**have**) a great time.
7 While Jack _____ (**shop**) for furniture for his new flat, his parents _____ (**paint**) the walls.
8 I _____ (**share**) a bedroom with my sister until I was 13 years old – that's when my parents _____ (**buy**) a bigger house with extra bedrooms.

LIVEWORKSHEETS