



GRAMMAR Past Continuous vs Past Simple | when & while

Name _____

A. Read the grammar rules for the use of **Past Simple** and **Past Continuous** in the sentence.

Past continuous & past simple | when & while

We often use the past continuous and the past simple together. The **past continuous** describes an action or situation that was in progress, and the **past simple** describes a completed action.

*The burglar **was climbing** through the window when the police officer **saw** him.*

*When I **went out**, it **was raining**.*

We connect the actions with *when* and *while*.

*I **was cooking** dinner when I **heard** a loud noise.*

*When / While I **was reading** a magazine, the thief **took** my bag.*

Grammar reference page 118

B. Read and complete the dialogues with the correct **Past Simple** and **Past Continuous**.

(14 marks)



Policeman: Where were you at ten o'clock last night?

Ronnie: I ¹ **was sitting** (sit) in my apartment. I ² _____ (eat) a pizza with my mate Gary.

Policeman: What time ³ _____ (Gary / arrive)?

Ronnie: At about half past eight.

Policeman: What ⁴ _____ (you / do) when ⁵ _____ (he / arrive)?

Ronnie: When ⁶ _____ (he / ring) the doorbell, ⁷ _____ (I / watch) a film.

Policeman: What film ⁸ _____ (you / watch)?

Ronnie: *Pirates of the Caribbean.*



Policeman: Where were you at 10pm?

Gary: I was at Ronnie's house.

Policeman: Were ⁹ _____ cards (you and Ronnie / play) ?

Gary: No, we ¹⁰ _____ (eat) a pizza.

Policeman: ¹¹ _____ (Ronnie / watch TV) when ¹² _____ (you / arrive)?

Gary: Yes, he ¹³ _____.

Policeman: ¹⁴ _____ (he / watch) *Pirates of the Caribbean*?

Gary: No way! Ronnie hates pirate films. ¹⁵ _____ (he / watch) *The Hobbit*!

C. Complete the sentences with the correct Past Simple and Past Continuous form of the verbs in the brackets. (14 marks)

- 1 Josh and Nick *were playing* tennis when they *saw* the plane. (play / see)
- 2 While she her mobile phone, Lisa the knife. (look for / find)
- 3 The muggers the money when they the police car. (count / hear)
- 4 When they to the pool, it . (get / rain)
- 5 I my friend in the street while I to school. (see / walk)
- 6 Ryan a book in his room when the lights out. (read / go)
- 7 My parents when they at university. (meet / study)
- 8 When my cousin , I my website. (arrive / update)

D. Complete the sentences with the correct Past Simple and Past Continuous form of the verbs in the brackets. (14 marks)

- 1 I *was swimming* in the sea when I *saw* a shark. (swim / see)
- 2 When the man , the pickpocket his wallet. (shop / take)
- 3 Nathan when he over. (dance / fall)
- 4 They lost while they in the forest. (get / walk)
- 5 While Claire in her office, she the noise. (work / hear)
- 6 When the film , my granddad . (end / sleep)
- 7 We to the hotel while it . (get / snow)
- 8 When Martina her messages, she into a tree. (read / walk)