

Past Simple and Past Continuous

Past Simple (Aux: DID + Verb INF)

FORM: Verb (Past) = 2nd column (irregular)
Verb -ED (regular)

USE: to talk about finished things in a finished past time.

KEYWORDS: Yesterday, last night, in 2012, three weeks ago, ...

Past Continuous (Aux: WAS/WERE)

FORM: I, he, she, it + WAS + Verb -ING
you, we, they + WERE + Verb -ING

USE: to talk about things related to a past time.

KEYWORDS: when+past simple, at 10pm, in those days, while, ...

ACTIVITY 1:

Choose the correct answer (past simple or past continuous):

Example: While my mother (cooked / was cooking), she (watched / was watching) TV.

1. I (sat / was sitting) in a café when you (called / were calling).
2. We (were / were being) so tired that we (slept / were sleeping) in our bedrooms at 8.
3. Jack (tried / was trying) to catch fish when he (found / was finding) an old boot.
4. The boys (played / were playing) baseball when it (started / was starting) to rain.
5. My cousin (had / was having) dinner when the telephone (rang / was ringing).
6. When I (got / was getting) up, my father (read / was reading) the newspaper.
7. The girls (looked / were looking) at a bird when a cat (stole / was stealing) their food.
8. Emilio (fell / was falling) when he (painted / was painting) the wall.
9. While the boys (walked / were walking) in the forest, they (saw / were seeing) a boar.
10. The doctor (examined / was examining) my eyesight yesterday.

ACTIVITY 2:

Complete the sentences with the right form of the PAST SIMPLE or PAST CONTINUOUS of the verbs in brackets:

Example: Were you watching (you/watch) the football match when I phoned (phone)?

1. The teachers _____ (speak) when you _____ (arrive) to school.
2. We _____ (not like) the movie. It was boring.
3. I _____ (not listen) to music last night. I _____ (study) Biology.
4. She _____ (have) a shower when you _____ (knock) at the door.
5. They _____ (not go) to the theatre last month. The tickets were all sold.
6. While Chris and Jane _____ (travel) on Saturday, we _____ (prepare) the party for their arrival.
7. The children _____ (sing) some songs last week, at the Christmas Festival.
8. Yesterday, I _____ (hear) a strange noise while I _____ (put on) my pyjamas.
9. We _____ (write) notes in class, when the Headmaster _____ (come in).
10. What _____ (you/do) last Tuesday at 11pm?