

Past simple / past continuous — part 2

a) Copy these classnotes in your notebook:

We use the **past simple** to **refer to an action that interrupts another** (we don't know if the other action was completed after the interruption)

Example:

During the exam
someone's mobile phone
fell to the floor, **didn't** it?

We use the **past continuous** to **describe an action that was interrupted** by another, or to **describe two simultaneous actions**.

Examples:

They **were doing** an exam
when someone's mobile
phone fell to the floor
weren't they?

She **was eating** a sandwich
while she watched/was
watching TV, **wasn't** she?

b) Look at these pictures and complete the sentences using the **past simple** (to refer to an action that interrupted another action) or the **past continuous** (to describe the action that was interrupted) of the verbs in brackets. Sometimes two answers are possible.



1. Adam _____ (swim) at the local swimming pool when he _____ (remember) his appointment with the dentist.



2. Barry _____ (fall) off his skateboard when he _____ (try) a new jump.



3. Carol's dog _____ (walk) happily when it _____ (smell) another dog and _____ (get) rather agitated.



4. When Diana _____ (play) her guitar on a park bench, a friend of hers _____ (pass) by and _____ (stop) to listen to her.



5. Ethan _____ (listen) to some music on his walkman while he _____ (have) a sandwich.



6. While Fiona _____ (take) her baby for a walk, her husband _____ (go) to the supermarket and _____ (do) the week's shopping.



7. George _____ (ride) her bike last week when she _____ (see) an accident: a dog _____ (cross) the street when a car _____ (run) it over.



8. Helen _____ (watch) her favourite TV series last night when the lights _____ (go) out. She _____ (get) very annoyed, and as soon as the lights _____ (come) back on she _____ (turn) on the TV again.