PAST CONTINUOUS & SIMPLE

AFFIRMATIVE		NEGATIVE		INTERROGATIVE	
I was working	I worked	I was not working	I didn't work	Was I working?	Did I work?
You were working	He worked	You weren't working	He didn't work	Were you working?	Did he work?
He was working	They worked	He wasn't working	They didn't work	Was he working?	Did they work?

Past Continuous

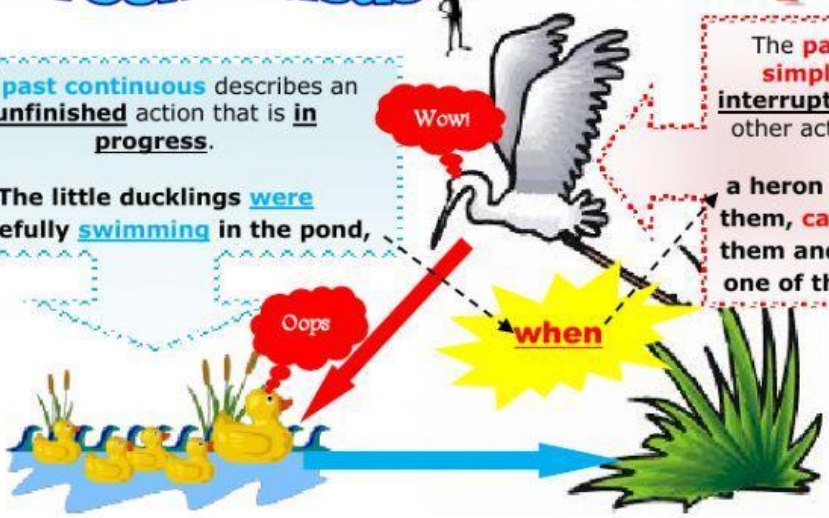
The **past continuous** describes an **unfinished** action that is **in progress**.

The little ducklings were peacefully swimming in the pond,

Past Simple

The **past simple interrupts** the other action.

a heron saw them, caught them and ate one of them.



1. Consider the following examples of a past action interrupted by another past action.

1. **Bob broke his leg while he was climbing a ladder to pick an apple.**
2. **I was watching television when the phone rang.**
3. **We were walking along the road when a noisy airplane flew over.**
4. **When the police arrested the robber he was holding a bottle of whisky.**
5. **My brother saw a car accident while he was thumbing a lift to the railway station.**
6. **We met Tom at the airport while we were waiting for our plane for New York.**



2. Now complete the sentences below. Remember that we use the past continuous to talk about an action that was happening in the past and the past simple for the action that interrupts the action in progress. Match the sentences with the pictures.

1. ..... (Peter/find) that treasure when he ..... (dig) a hole to plant a tree?
2. ..... (David / fall) from a ladder while he ..... (clean) a window ?
3. A bee ..... (sting) the beekeeper while he ..... (collect) honey from his hives.
4. A cute little mouse ..... (run) back to its shelter when a huge cat ..... (spot) it and ..... (catch) it.
5. Daddy ..... (mow) the lawn when the engine ..... (make) a strange noise and ..... (stop).
6. Garry ..... (sleep) so fast that he ..... (not / hear) when the thieves ..... (break) into his house.
7. I ..... (walk) my dog when suddenly I ..... (hear) footsteps behind me.
8. John ..... (not/win) the last competition, he ..... (fall) from his horse while he ..... (participate).
9. Miles ..... (bike) through the countryside when his tires ..... (go) flat.
10. No, the tree ..... (not / collapse) when Bob ..... (cut) it down.
11. Pete ..... (pick) apples in his orchard when the ladder ..... (slip) away and he ..... (fall) to the ground.
12. The baker ..... (put) the bread in his oven when he suddenly ..... (burn) one of his fingers.
13. The farmer ..... (feed) his poultry when a chicken ..... (run) ran away and ..... (disappear).
14. The farmer ..... (shoot) at a flock of birds that ..... (calmly / overfly) his fields.
15. The mouse ..... (break) one of its teeth when it ..... (eat) a piece of cheese.
16. The vet ..... (treat) the dog when the light ..... (go) off.
17. The worm ..... (eat) an apple when a bird ..... (see) it and ..... (swallow) it.
18. They ..... (walk) through a forest when lightning ..... (strike) a nearby tree.

