

PAST SIMPLE OR PAST CONTINUOUS



We use "Simple Past Tense",

- ✗ to state completed actions at a stated time in the past.
--I went to cinema last night.
- ✗ to state sequence of actions.
--She looked at me, opened the door and went out.
- ✗ With stative verbs. (like, love, know, understand, believe...)
--I loved that book.

We use "Past Continuous Tense",

- ✗ to state actions started before that moment but has not finished at that moment.
--I was reading my book.
- ✗ to state simultaneous actions.
--While we were sleeping they were listening to music loudly.
- ✗ to describe the background situation of the stories.
--The sun was shining, the birds were



A. Choose the best one.

1. I didn't understand / wasn't understanding anything.
2. I had / was having a dream last night. The cats talked / were talking, the people sang / were singing and the trees walked / were walking. It was odd.
3. Who did you visit / were you visiting yesterday?
4. Susan thought / was thinking that it wasn't a mistake.
5. The teacher talked / was talking about something seriously but the students made / were making noise.
6. When I came / was coming home, my mother washed / was washing the dishes.
7. My grandparent died / was dying last year.
8. She went / was going out two hours ago.
9. Sue washed the dishes and then went / was going to bed.
10. What did you do / were you doing when I phoned / was phoning you?



B. Match the questions with answers

1. What was he doing when you saw her?
 2. Did Martin help you?
 3. What were the students doing?
 4. Did they like the film?
 5. Where did you go two hours ago?
 6. Was Arthur playing computer games?
- a. Yes, he did.
b. I went to the cinema with Ashley.
c. They were drawing something.
d. She was preparing the dinner.
e. No, he was doing his homework.
f. No, they didn't.



1	2	3	4	5	6

C. Make sentences

1. When - I - see - her - she - wash - the dishes.
2. They - not - want to - watch TV.
3. She - try to - open - the door - but - she could - not.
4. John - open - the door - look out - and - begin - to run.
5. We - watch TV - when - he - have - an accident.
6. He - not believe - me - although - I - tell - the truth.
7. While - I - sleep - the bell - ring.
8. I - not - want to - go to - the beach.
9. My brother - have a rest - while - my mother - cook.
10. They - play football - when - we see them yesterday.

D. What were the kids doing last weekend?

1. Margaret/cook
2. Suzy/play
3. Mathew/swing
4. John/skip
5. Arnold/swim
6. Tom/read
7. Marta /clean
8. Ruth/play
9. Martin/draw
10. Karl-Jim-Sue play

