

Past Simple and Past Continuous

A. Use the Past Simple and Past Continuous to make sentences from the words in brackets.

1. (The ambulance / arrive / while / I / have / breakfast)
2. (The argument / start / while / they / be / on the bus)
3. (Clémence / go / to all the museums / while / she / stay / in Madrid)
4. (I / have / lunch / when / the police / arrive)
5. (My sister / cook / dinner / when / she / cut / her hand)
6. (The soldiers / prepare / to leave / when / the sergeant / give / them a different order)

B. Complete this true story. Use the verbs in parentheses () in either the past simple (prétérit) or past continuous. (Story taken from the Internet.)

Casey Jones (1863-1900) _____ (be) an American railway driver – called a *train engineer* in American English. He _____ (become) a hero when he _____ (die) because he _____ (save) the lives of many passengers in a terrible accident.

On 30 April 1900 Casey _____ (drive) his train, the Cannonball Express, back to the station during a dark and wet night. He _____ (be) with another driver named Webb, who was also his friend. The train _____ (go) fast because Casey and Webb _____ (want) to get back to the station as soon as possible; however, this _____ (not be) the problem. There _____ (be) another train that _____ (sit) on the same track. Casey and Webb _____ (not know) about the other train.

As Casey _____ (come) around a curve, he _____ (see) the other train. Casey _____ (realize) the danger. He _____ (shout) to Webb to jump from the train. Webb _____ (jump) from the train while Casey _____ (try) to stop. Webb _____ (fall) more than 300 feet (100 meters), but he _____ (not die). While he



_____ (fall) he _____ (hear) his friend Casey. Casey _____ (shout),
“Help!”

The train _____ (go) fast, so it could not stop quickly. Casey _____ (slow) the
train, but it still _____ (crash) into the other train. Casey was killed because he was at the
front of the train, but the passengers _____ (not die).

Casey’s friend, Webb, _____ (write) a very popular song about his friend. He
_____ (title) the song, *The Ballad of Casey Jones*.

C. Complete these short texts. Use the verbs in parentheses () in either the past simple (prétérit) or past continuous.

1. Beethoven _____ (write) many classical masterpieces. He _____ (write) a
symphony when he _____ (die).

2. The artist Gaudi _____ (design) several houses in Barcelona, Spain. Later he
_____ (begin) work on a cathedral. He _____ (work) on the church when he
_____ (die).

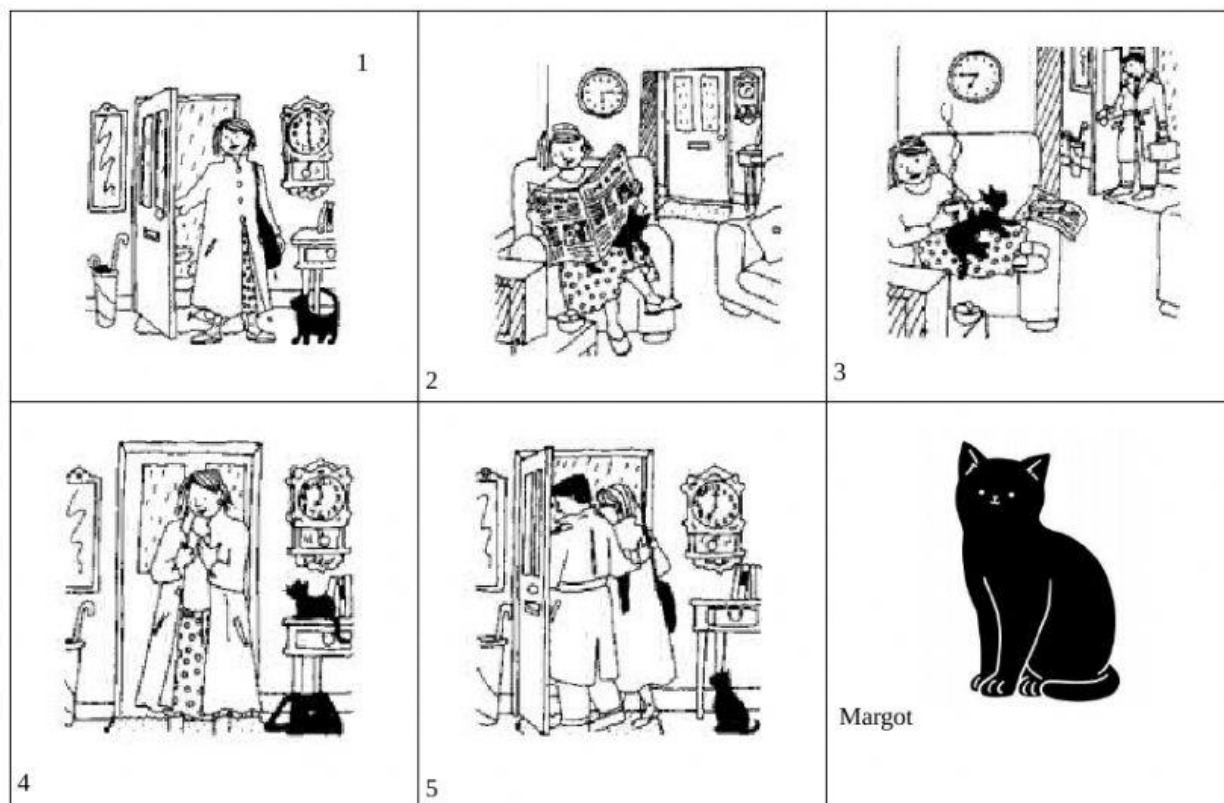
3. John Lennon _____ (sing) and _____ (play) on many records with the Beatles.
Later he _____ (record) several songs without the Beatles. He _____ (arrange) a
new record when a man named Mark Chapman _____ (shoot) him.

4. Last Sunday Tena _____ (want) to make two salads. She _____ (make) the
first one quickly. She _____ (prepare) the second salad when her dinner guests
_____ (arrive). Sheri _____ (help) Tena to finish the second salad.

5. Alix’s rugby team _____ (be) fortunate last weekend. Until almost the end of the game
they _____ (lose), but at that last minute they _____ (win) the game when they
_____ (score) a try.

6. The sky _____ (get) darker; the street lights _____ (come) on. Students
_____ (rush) home after their studies. I _____ (wait) in a group on the subway
platform. Suddenly someone _____ (steal) my mobile phone!

D. A policewoman is interviewing Mary Anderson about last Saturday evening. Using the images as a guide, complete the conversation using either the past simple (prétérit) or past continuous.



Policewoman: What time ⁰ did you get _____ (you/get) home from work?

Mary: At about 6 o'clock.

Policewoman: And what ¹ _____ (you /do) after you got home?

Mary: I read the newspaper.

Policewoman: Did anything happen while ² _____ (read) the paper?

Mary: Yes, the phone ³ _____ (ring) .

Policewoman: What ⁴ _____ (you/do) when your husband came home?

Mary: I was watching TV, and I ⁵ _____ (drink) a cup of coffee.

Policewoman: Did you and your husband stay at home?

Mary: No, I ⁶ _____ (drink) my coffee. Then I put on my raincoat, and we ⁷ _____ (go) out at seven o'clock.

Policewoman: Why ⁸ _____ (you/put) your raincoat on?

Mary: Because it ⁹ _____ (rain), of course.