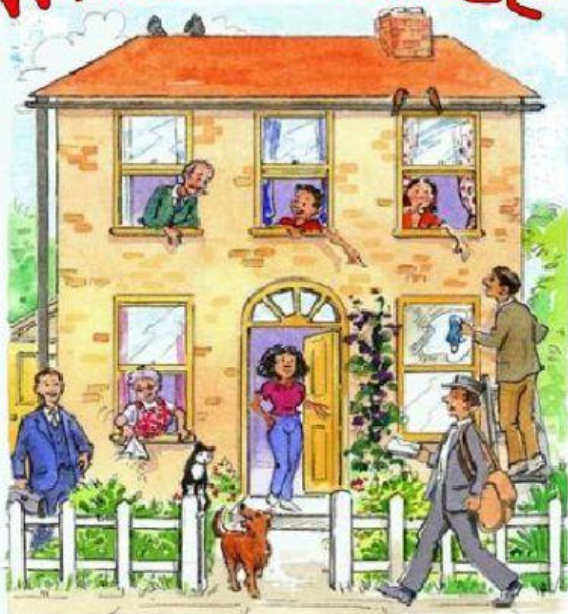


# WHEN-WHILE



*I was doing my homework*



The telephone rang

Doing my homework: Long-period action  
Continuous action

Telephone rang: Short-period action  
Action that interrupts other action

e.g. While I *was doing* my homework, the telephone rang.

When the telephone *rang*, I was doing my homework

↓  
"second form of the verb"

"When" is often followed by **Simple Past Tense**, whereas "while" is usually followed by **Past Continuous Tense**. "While" expresses the idea of "during that time."

➤ **Exercises:** Look at the picture above and make sentences by using both "when" and "while".

- 1- The postman/deliver the letters/John/clean the windows.  
*While* John was cleaning the windows, the postman delivered the letters.  
*When* the postman delivered the letters, John was cleaning the windows.
- 2- My grandmother/dust the house/my mother/answer the door.
- 3- Sandra/look through the window/the postman/come.
- 4- Sally/ see the postman /my uncle /speak with me.
- 5- The dog/bark/my mother/answer teh door.

When it started to rain yesterday, we were having a party .



And I was playing taboo and listening to music.

6. Fill in the blanks with the correct tense: Simple Past or Past Continuous.

a- While she \_\_\_\_\_ (wash) the dishes, I \_\_\_\_\_ (turn) the lights off.

b- I \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book when the accident \_\_\_\_\_ (happen).

c- When the thief \_\_\_\_\_ (enter) the building, The Browns \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) champagne and \_\_\_\_\_ (celebrate) their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

d- I \_\_\_\_\_ (break) the vase while I \_\_\_\_\_ (run) after my little son.

e- My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (see) Melinda while she \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) down the street.

f- While \_\_\_\_\_ (do) my homework, somebody \_\_\_\_\_ (call) my name.

g- When John \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to house, we \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) on the phone with grandma.

h- When Sandra \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the house, my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (ride) a bike in the park.

i- My father and my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (repair) the car in the garage when the earthquake \_\_\_\_\_ (happen).

7. Look at the parentheses and do what is wanted.

Example: You were studying when she called.(?) Answer: *Were you studying when she called?*

1- While we **were having** a picnic, it started to rain. (when)

\_\_\_\_\_

2- When he arrived at the house, we were discussing. (while)

\_\_\_\_\_

3- When I went to London, Linda was living in that city. (while)

\_\_\_\_\_

5- They were playing hide-and-seek. (neg)

\_\_\_\_\_

6- The children were playing hide-and-seek when the man shouted at them. (while)

\_\_\_\_\_

7- While the women were having dinner, the waiter dropped a tray on their table. (when)

\_\_\_\_\_

8- She was working in the bank at that time. (?)

\_\_\_\_\_

9- We were studying English when the door was knocked. (neg)

\_\_\_\_\_

