

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 the door.

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



And I was playing taboo and listening to music.

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

6. a- While she _____ (wash) the dishes, I _____ (turn) the TV on.

7. b- I _____ (read) a book when the accident _____ (happen).

c- When the thief _____ (enter) the building, The Browns _____ (drink) champagne and _____ (celebrate) their 25th 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)