

**PAST TENSES PRACTICE**  
**(PAST SIMPLE and PAST CONTINUOUS)**

**1. Circle the correct form.**

- a) Dave **arrived / was arriving** at Sue's house at 19.30, but she wasn't there. She **did/was doing** some shopping at the supermarket.
- b) At this time last week, we **lay/were lying** on the beach in the sun.
- c) A: I **phoned / was phoning** you yesterday after school. Where were you?  
B: Oh. My mobile was off because I **rehearsed / was rehearsing** for the concert on Saturday.
- d) When I **walked / was walking** into the class, the teacher **talked /was talking** about grammar.
- e) The Titanic **crossed / was crossing** the Atlantic when it **hit/ was hitting** an iceberg.
- f) I **watched / was watching** the episode on TV when the electricity **went / was going** off.

**2. Complete the sentences using the correct past tense: PAST SIMPLE or PAST CONTINUOUS.**

1. While Simon \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep), his sister \_\_\_\_\_ (take) his toy.
2. While we \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) at the party, the lights \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out.
3. While Mary and Jack \_\_\_\_\_ (play) tennis, it \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to rain.
4. While they \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) around Europe, somebody \_\_\_\_\_ (break) into their house.
5. While I \_\_\_\_\_ (set) the table, I \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) a plate and it \_\_\_\_\_ (break).
6. While they \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) in the sea, they \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a shark.
7. While Mr Smith \_\_\_\_\_ (run) down the street, he \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) his key.
8. While she \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in London, she \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) a nice man and they \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) in love.
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out, while my parents \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) TV.
10. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (come) into the classroom, while students \_\_\_\_\_ (shout) at each other.