

Past simple and past continuous

1 Circle the correct words.

I went / was going to bed because I was tired.

- 1 We talked / were talking to Laura when my phone rang.
- 2 What were you doing when the wildfire started / was starting?
- 3 My parents met / were meeting at university.
- 4 I dropped my phone when I sent / was sending a message.
- 5 I went / was going to France last year.

LOOK!

I was walking home **when** I saw Peter.
I saw Peter **while** I was walking home.

2 Complete the sentences with *when* or *while*.

I was watching TV when the phone rang.

- 1 The storm started when we were having dinner.
- 2 There was a flood while we were staying in the hotel.
- 3 We were travelling in Italy when the volcano erupted.
- 4 We were sitting in the garden when we saw the fire.
- 5 It started raining while I was walking to school.

3 Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

They were playing computer games when we arrived. (play)

- 1 We were driving the fire while we were driving home. (see)
- 2 Sam and Jess were watching TV when they felt the earthquake. (watch)
- 3 The avalanche started while they were skiing down the mountain. (ski)
- 4 I was hearing about the landslide while I was watching the news. (hear)
- 5 Sonia walked home when the blizzard started. (walk)

4 Complete the questions for the answers.

What were you doing (do) when the earthquake happened (happen)?

When the earthquake happened I was reading a book.

(1) _____ you _____ (sleep) when the tornado _____ (start)?

(2) What _____ you _____ (do)?

No, I wasn't sleeping when the tornado started.

I was walking in the park.

(3) What _____ you _____ (do) when you _____ (see) the tornado?

When I saw the tornado, I ran home.

(4) How long _____ the tornado _____ (last)?

It lasted for 20 minutes.

