

## Past Simple or Past Continuous?

**A. Do you use the past simple or past continuous in these situations? Write the letter in the correct box below.**

- You want to emphasize that an action took some time.
- You want to talk about a state or situation that was true in the past.
- You want to emphasize something happened again and again over time.
- You want to emphasize change or growth over time.
- You want to talk about a one-time completed action or event. The duration isn't important.
- You want to talk about a relatively long action that was ongoing at a particular time.
- You want to talk about a repeated, completed action or event. The duration isn't important.
- You want to talk about a relatively long action that was interrupted by a shorter one.
- You want to talk about a relatively short action or event that happened during a longer one.
- You want to talk about a plan that would have been completed in the past but was changed.

Past simple	Past continuous

**B. Complete the sentences in the past simple or continuous using the verbs in brackets.**

- Oh man, my back ..... (ache) all day.
- I ..... (take) a shower when the package arrived.
- I ..... (do) my homework after I ..... (get) home from school.
- Her chess game ..... (get) better slowly.
- Sorry, I didn't answer the phone before. I was driving when you ..... (call).
- What ..... you ..... (do) on the night of the murder?
- I often ..... (stop) for tea in the morning before I ..... (get) married.
- I didn't have lunch, so I really ..... (need) something to eat when I got home.
- He ..... always ..... (talk) about his bowling scores, but no one cared.
- We ..... (plan) to buy you a cake for your birthday, but the shop was closed.

**C. Match the sentences above with the situations in Exercise A.**

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. .... | 2. .... | 3. .... | 4. .... | 5. ....  |
| 6. .... | 7. .... | 8. .... | 9. .... | 10. .... |