

Past Simple vs. Past Continuous Exercises



Exercise 1: Rewrite the Sentences (Past Simple and Past Continuous)

Instructions: Rewrite each pair of sentences as **one sentence**, using the past simple and past continuous forms.

- I was reading a book. My friend called me.
- They were walking in the park. It started to rain.
- The teacher was talking. The students interrupted her.
- We were cooking dinner. The phone rang.
- I was doing my homework. The lights went out.

Exercise 3: Error Correction

Instructions: Each sentence contains an error in the use of past simple or past continuous. Correct the error.

- They was watching TV when the power went out.
- As I was walk home, I met an old friend.
- She cooked dinner while I was reading.
- We were play basketball when it started to rain.
- He was listen to music when his phone rang.

Exercise 2: Past Simple or Past Continuous Story Completion

Instructions: Complete the story with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses, using either the past simple or past continuous tense.

It (1) _____ (be) a cold winter evening. As Maria (2) _____ (walk) home, she (3) _____ (notice) snowflakes falling gently from the sky. She (4) _____ (stop) to admire the snow when suddenly she (5) _____ (hear) a sound. Someone (6) _____ (sing) softly nearby. Maria (7) _____ (walk) toward the sound and (8) _____ (see) a man playing a guitar under a tree. While he (9) _____ (play), people (10) _____ (gather) around to listen.