Exercise 1: Simple Past Tense (Completed Actions in the Story)

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the correct **simple past tense** form of the verb in parentheses. Use the story clues to choose the right one. (Focus: Actions that finished at a specific past time, like starting the day or leaving home.)

1. Mr. and Mrs. Dursley _____ up on the dull, gray Tuesday our story starts. (wake)
2. Mr. Dursley _____ as he picked out his most boring tie for work. (hum)
3. Mrs. Dursley _____ away happily as she wrestled a screaming Dudley into his high chair. (gossip)
4. At half past eight, Mr. Dursley _____ up his briefcase. (pick)
5. He _____ Mrs. Dursley on the cheek before leaving. (peck)
6. Mr. Dursley _____ into his car and backed out of the drive. (get)

Exercise 2: Past Continuous Tense (Ongoing Actions in the Story)

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the correct **past continuous tense** form (was/were + verb-ing) of the verb in parentheses or from the bank. Look for clues about actions in progress, like background routines or interruptions. (Focus: Ongoing scenes interrupted by simple past, e.g., tantrums during goodbyes.)

1. There was nothing about the cloudy sky to suggest that strange things _____ all over the country. (happen)
2. None of them _____ a large, tawny owl flutter past the window. (notice)
3. Dudley _____ a tantrum and throwing his cereal at the walls when Mr. Dursley tried to kiss him. (have)
4. As Mr. Dursley drove around the corner, he _____ the cat in his mirror. (watch)
5. The cat _____ on the corner of Privet Drive, but there wasn't a map in sight. (stand)
6. Mr. Dursley _____ and stared at the cat, which stared back. (blink)

LIVEWORKSHEETS