# PAST SIMPLE AND PAST CONTINUOUS

**1.** What **did** Rick's friends **do** last Thursday? Look at the picture and put the verbs into the PAST SIMPLE (used for **finished past actions**).




**PAST SIMPLE**

listen _____
sit _____
play _____
brush _____
read _____
paint _____
eat _____
write _____
watch _____

**2.** Now let's practise actions that **were happening for some time in the past.** What **were** Rick's friends **doing** when he came into the room last Thursday? Use the verbs above in the PAST CONTINUOUS.
Example: Caroline ***was sitting*** on the floor.

George _____

Frank _____

Julie _____

Alison _____

Barbara _____

Sue and Liz _____

Rita _____

Ann _____

**Complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.**

The Ancient Greeks (1) ___ate___ (eat) flat bread with herbs, onions or garlic but they (2) _____ (not eat) pizza with tomatoes like we do today. In 1522, European explorers (3) _____ (find) tomatoes in Peru and they (4) _____ (sail) with them back to Europe. Poor people in Naples, Italy (5) _____ (cook) tomatoes with their bread and they (6) _____ (discover) pizza. In the second half of the 19th century, many Italians (7) _____ (not want) to stay in Italy. They (8) _____ (travel) to live in America. But they (9) _____ (not forget) Italian food! They (10) _____ (take) pizzas with them. The first pizzeria (11) _____ (sell) pizzas in the USA in New York City in 1905. And the rest is history!

**Write questions using the past simple.**

1 Where / you / be / on Saturday at two o'clock ?
_____
_____

2 What / you / watch / on TV yesterday ?
_____
_____

3 What time / you / arrive / home last night ?
_____
_____

4 Who / you / see / on Saturday ?
_____
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS




**Fill in what were these people doing.**

Robert _____.

Sam and Jess _____.

Emma _____.

Jason _____.

Dave and Frank _____.

**Choose the correct sentences.**

Catherine and Heidi were singing a song.

Toby was writing on his computer.

Jack wasn´t drawing a picture.

Sarah was reading a book.

Amy wasn´t writing into her exercise book.

**Build sentences with past continuous.**

1. _____ ***(she/to visit)*** the museum?
2. _____***(you/to write)*** with a pencil?
3. _____***(the boys/to read)*** comics?
4. _____***(Kimberly/to ask)*** questions?
5. _____ ***(Helen and Anne/to take)*** photos?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## A) CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION



1.-Anthony **called/was calling** while I **parked/was parking** the car.

2.-Miranda **drove/was driving** to work when she **saw/was seeing** the accident.

3.-Thomas **didn't watch/wasn't watching** the film when Sonia arrived home.

4.-**Did he lie/was he lying** on the sofa at 5,30 yesterday?

5.-When I **left/was leaving** the office, the phone **rang/was ringing**.

6.-It **snowed/was snowing** in the mountains when we got up yesterday.

7.-Barbara **was living/lived** in Paris when she was 15 years old.

8.-I **was writing/wrote** my blog on the Internet while you **slept/were sleeping**.

9.-While David **was recovering/recovered** in hospital, I decorated the flat.

10.-When I **was waking /woke** up, I realized that it **was getting /got** dark.

**Write complete sentences. Use the past simple and past continuous.**




1 I / carry / my plastic snake / when / my brother / see / it.



2 She / open / the door / when / the water / fall / on her head.

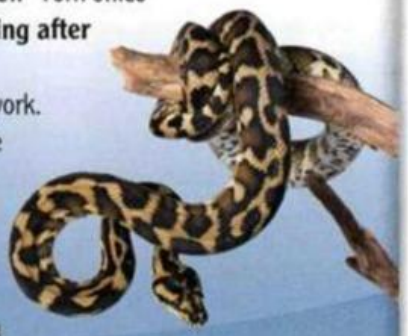


3 When / the Emperor / go out / into the street / he / not wear / many clothes.



4 He / fall / while / he / carry / the plates.

## Missing: Giant snake!



While a worker at Google's New York office (1) **looked after / was looking after** an enormous python, he (2) **took / was taking** it to work. He (3) **left / was leaving** the snake near his desk while he (4) **worked / was working** in a different part of the building. The python (5) **escaped / was escaping** while the man (6) **didn't watch / wasn't watching** it. Workers at Google then (7) **received / were receiving** a strange email: a giant snake (8) **moved / was moving** around the offices. A lot of people thought it was a joke because of the date – it was April Fool's Day. The cleaners (9) **found / were finding** the python more than 24 hours later while they (10) **cleaned / were cleaning** the offices. Fortunately, when they (11) **found / were finding** it, the snake (12) **slept / was sleeping**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## Match the beginnings 1–6 with the endings a–f.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 While I was having breakfast | a) they were buying popcorn. |
| 2 Laura was crossing the road | b) my phone rang. |
| 3 When we got home | c) while I was jumping over the wall. |
| 4 When I saw my friends | d) he fell and broke his arm. |
| 5 While James was climbing a tree | e) the dog was eating our lunch. |
| 6 I dropped my keys | f) when she found £50. |

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

I *was doing* (do) my homework when my mum *arrived* (arrive) home.

1 My sister _____ (carry) the shopping when she _____ (drop) the eggs.
2 I _____ (stand) outside the cinema when I _____ (see) Brad Pitt.
3 When my teacher _____ (walk) into the classroom we _____ (listen) to music.
4 My friends _____ (play) football when a big dog _____ (take) their ball.
5 We _____ (look) for wood to build a fire when we _____ (discover) a secret cave.
6 When I _____ (get) the text message I _____ (sit) in my English class.

## Complete the text with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in the box.



chat do have listen phone
sleep not watch win

**As part of our Ordinary Lives series, Cool Life magazine is interviewing Alicia Garcia. Alicia's from Spain but she lives in London with her family.**

**Cool Life** Hi, Alicia. What (1) _____ you _____ last night at 8.00pm? (2) _____ you _____ dinner?

**Alicia** No, I wasn't. I (3) _____ to my friends on the Internet. We had dinner at 9.00pm.

**Cool Life** (4) _____ you _____ in your bed at 11.00pm?

**Alicia** No, I wasn't. I (5) _____ to music in my bedroom. While I was doing that, my friend Katia (6) _____ me on her new mobile phone.

**Cool Life** You're from Spain. When Spain (7) _____ the World Cup, what were you doing?

**Alicia** I (8) _____ the match because I was camping with some friends.

**There are many stories about inventions and discoveries, and most of them are probably not true!**

**Q** How did Sir Isaac Newton discover gravity?
**A** He (1) ... under a tree (2) ... an apple fell onto his head.
**Q** Where does the word 'Eureka' come from?
**A** One day, Archimedes (3) ... a bath when he (4) ... that the water level rose when he got into the bath. He exclaimed 'Eureka!', which means 'I've found it!'
**Q** Who invented chewing gum?
**A** It was Thomas Adams in 1869. He was using the gum to make toys when he (5) ... it into his mouth and he liked it. In 1900, people all over the USA (6) ... chewing gum.
**Q** When did Levi Strauss invent jeans?
**A** People (7) ... for gold in California (8) ... a young man called Levi Strauss moved to San Francisco. They were working hard and they needed stronger trousers. Levi Strauss used a material from France called denim and he invented 'blue jeans'.



| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | was sit | was sitting | is sitting |
| 2 | when | while | what |
| 3 | have | were having | was having |
| 4 | notice | noticing | noticed |
| 5 | put | puts | putting |
| 6 | was | were | are |
| 7 | were looking | was looking | were look |
| 8 | while | what | when |

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**1** Circle the correct words to complete the text.

## (1) **What / When** are your favourite stories about your city?



Hi! I'm Lianne and I'm from London, UK. I (2) **read / am reading** a great book about urban legends at the moment. The McCulloch Oil Corporation of Los Angeles (3) **was buying / bought** London Bridge over 40 years ago. Legend (and it is only a story) says that (4) **while / when** the owners of the company bought London Bridge, they thought they were buying Tower Bridge. There (5) **is / are** several beautiful bridges in London but perhaps the most beautiful bridge is Tower Bridge because it (6) **has got / have got** towers and also the bridge (7) **often opens / opens often** when there are boats on the river. In 1968, London Bridge was a historic bridge but it wasn't especially beautiful.



I'm Gaspard from Paris, France. About 14 million people (8) **visit / are visiting** Paris every year and perhaps the most popular monument is the Eiffel Tower. This Tower was built in 1889 for the Paris Exposition but by 1925 it (9) **was / were** in a terrible condition. A very intelligent man, Victor Lustig, was living in Paris at this time. Lustig told Andre Poisson, a rich businessman, that he was working for the city. He said the city (10) **didn't have / not have** any money and (11) **couldn't / didn't can** repair the Tower so they were selling it. This wasn't true of course; Lustig was playing a cruel joke. Poisson gave a lot of money to Lustig to buy the Tower. Lustig took the money and he escaped from France. Poisson (12) **not went / didn't go** to the police because he was very embarrassed.

**B) COMPLETE THE SENTENCES USING PAST SIMPLE OR PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE**



1.-Yesterday at 9,30 pm my parents ..... (sit) in the garden ..... (drink) some Coke.

2.- The chambermaid ..... (make) my bed in the hotel and ..... (clean) the bathroom w breakfast.

3.- Somebody ..... (knock) on the door while I ..... (read) the newspaper.

4.-My brother ..... (buy) a lot of books when he ..... (live) in Cambridge.

5.-William ..... (not meet) Sally at the airport last Sunday.

6.-Jerry ..... (have) dinner when the lights ..... (go) out.

7.-The girl ..... (feel) ill so she ..... (not go) to work.

8.-When I ..... (arrive) at the wedding, Miriam ..... (introduce) me to some friends.

9.-Sarah ..... (run) to catch the bus, when she ..... (fall) down and ..... (break) her ankle.

10.-Richard ..... (teach) at the university when he ..... (meet) his wife.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**3.** Complete the blanks with the PAST SIMPLE (for completed past actions) or PAST CONTINUOUS (for past actions in progress) of the verbs below.



While they _____ football, it _____ raining.



When I _____, the sun _____.




While Paul _____ breakfast, the phone _____.








Jack _____ down the street when he _____ an accident. He _____ to the phone box and _____ the police.

**eat walk shine call ring begin see get up go play**

**Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.** ➳ 2.5, 2.6

1 When Molly _____ (drop) her phone on the floor, it _____ (break).
2 When my parents _____ (get) home, they _____ (find) a mouse in the kitchen.
3 Martin _____ (not hear) the phone because he _____ (have) a shower.
4 At 8 p.m. last night, I _____ (sit) at my desk but I _____ (not work).
5 When I _____ (see) Ben and Tia, they _____ (sit) on a bench, _____ (laugh) and _____ (chat).
6 It was a warm afternoon, but the sun _____ (not shine).
7 While we _____ (take) my grandmother to hospital, our car _____ (break down).
8 I _____ (lose) my watch while we _____ (play) volleyball in the park.

It was past midnight when Helen [1] _____ (arrive) home. She [2] _____ (close) the door quietly because her parents [3] _____ (sleep) upstairs. As she [4] _____ (take off) her coat, she [5] _____ (see) a letter on the floor with her name on it. She [6] _____ (open) the letter and [7] _____ (read) it. Then she [8] _____ (put) it in her pocket, [9] _____ (pick up) her coat and [10] _____ (go) out again. It [11] _____ (be) a cold night but it [12] _____ (not rain). A few people [13] _____ (walk) towards the High Street, so Helen [14] _____ (cross) the road and [15] _____ (follow) them. She [16] _____ (not know) where they [17] _____ (go) – but she [18] _____ (not want) to be alone.

LIVEWORKSHEETS