

The past continuous and past simple

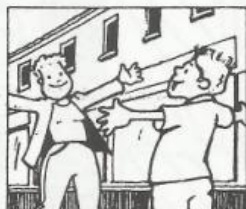
a Study these rules.

The past continuous shows a continuous activity.

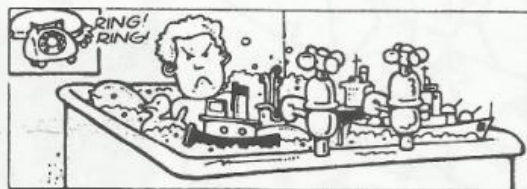
The past simple shows a completed activity.



While the man **was painting** the house, he **fell off** the ladder.



As I **was going** to the shops I **met** my friend.



The telephone **rang** when I **was having** a bath.

b Here are some things that happened to Sue on her holiday. Put the verbs in the correct tense.

- 1 While I to Spain, I to the pilot. (fly/talk)
- 2 While we to Carmen's uncle's house, we at an old castle. (drive/stop)
- 3 I someone from my school, when I on the beach. (meet/sunbathe)
- 4 While I with Carmen, I some Spanish words. (stay/learn)
- 5 While I with Carmen, I a lot of photographs. (stay/take)
- 6 When I home, I my purse. (come/lose)
- 7 I Jackie and Terry, when I back from the airport. (see/come)

a Study these rules.

While the man **was painting** the house, he **fell off** the ladder.

When he **fell off** the ladder, he **hurt** his leg.

As I **was going** to the shops, I **met** my friend.

When I **met** my friend, we **went** to the cafe.

The telephone **rang** when I **was having** a bath.

When the telephone **rang**, I **got out** of the bath.

In the first sentence in each pair, there is a continuous and a completed action. So there is a continuous and a simple past tense.

In the second sentence in each pair there are two completed actions. So there are two simple past tenses.

b Put the verbs into the correct tense in these sentences.

- 1 While I television, the telephone (watch/ring)
- 2 When the telephone , I off the television. (ring/switch)
- 3 As I to school, I my friend. (go/see)
- 4 When I my friend, I 'Hello'. (see/say)
- 5 Casey outside the bank, when a thief out. (stand/run)
- 6 When Casey the thief, he 'Stop thief'. (see/shout)
- 7 It to rain, while I for the bus. (start/wait)
- 8 When it to rain, I my coat on. (start/put)
- 9 Peter the cat, when it him. (carry/scratch)
- 10 When the cat Peter, he off the ladder. (scratch/fall)