9-12 SIMPLE PAST vs. PAST PROGRESSIVE

(a) Jane ***called*** me yesterday. (b) I ***talked*** to Jane for an hour last night. (c) We ***went*** to Jack's house last Friday. (d) What time ***did*** you ***get up*** this morning?	The ***simple past*** describes activities or situations that began and ended at a particular time in the past (e.g., *yesterday, last night).*
(e) I ***was studying*** when Jane called me yesterday. (f) While I ***was studying*** last night, Jane called.	The ***past progressive*** describes an activity that was in progress (was happening) at the time another action happened. In (e) and (f): The studying was in progress when Jane called.
(g) I ***opened*** my umbrella when it ***began*** to rain.	If both the *when*-clause and the main clause in a sentence are simple past, it means that the action in the *when*-clause happened first, and the action in the main clause happened second. In (g): First, it began to rain; second, I opened my umbrella.
COMPARE (h) When the phone ***rang,*** I ***answered*** it. (i) When the phone ***rang,*** I ***was studying***.	In (h): First, the phone rang; second, I answered it. In (i): First, the studying was in progress; second, the phone rang.

☐ EXERCISE 37. Sentence practice.

Directions: Complete the sentences. Use the simple past or the past progressive.

1. While my cousin and I *(have)* _____ dinner at the restaurant last night, we *(see)* _____ a friend of mine. I *(introduce)* _____ her to my cousin.

2. When I *(hear)* _____ a knock at the door last night, I *(walk)* _____ to the door and *(open)* _____ it. When I *(open)* _____ the door, I *(see)* _____ my brother. I *(greet)* _____ him and *(ask)* _____ him to come in.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

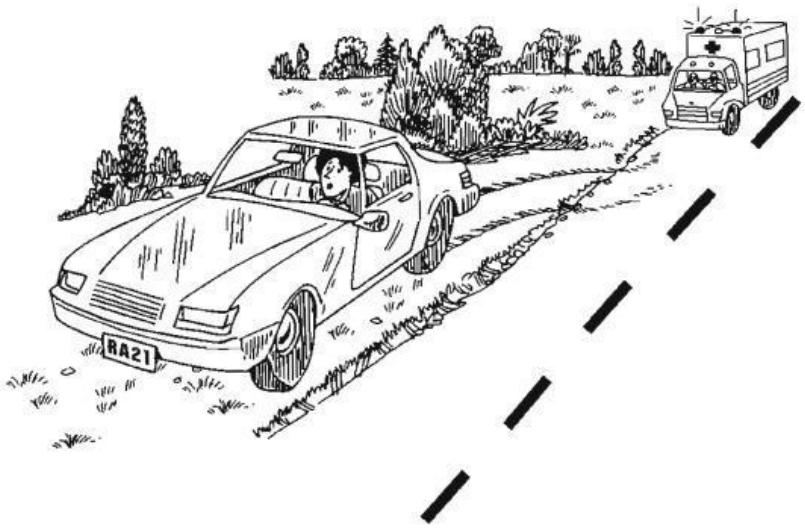
3. My cousin and I *(watch)* _____ a movie on TV last night when my brother *(come)* _____. He *(watch)* _____ the end of the movie with us.

4. While I *(walk)* _____ to class yesterday morning, I *(see)* _____ Abdullah. We *(say)* _____ hello and *(walk)* _____ the rest of the way to school together.

☐ EXERCISE 38. Sentence practice.

Directions: Complete the sentences. Use the simple past or the past progressive.

1. Mrs. Reed *(turn)* _____ on the radio in her car while she *(drive)* _____ home yesterday. She *(listen)* _____ to some music when she suddenly *(hear)* _____ a siren. When she *(look)* _____ in her rear-view mirror, she *(see)* _____ an ambulance behind her. She immediately *(pull)* _____ her car to the side of the road and *(wait)* _____ for the ambulance to pass.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. A: I *(be)* _____ at my friends' house last night. While we *(eat)* _____ dinner, their cat *(jump)* _____ on the table. My friends *(seem, not)* _____ to care, but I lost my appetite.

B: What *(you, say)* _____?

A: Nothing.



B: Why *(you, ask, not)* _____ your friends to get their cat off the table?

A: I *(want, not)* _____ to be impolite.

B: I think your friends were impolite to let their cat sit on the table during dinner.

☐ EXERCISE 39. Sentence practice.

Directions: Use the information in the timeline to make sentences with the simple past and past progressive. Use ***while, when, before,*** and ***after***.

Example: 1967: entered Lakeside School
→ *In 1967, Bill Gates entered Lakeside School.*
→ *While he was studying at Lakeside, he began to work with computers.*

Bill Gates: a brief history

1955:	was born
1967:	entered Lakeside School
1967–1973:	studied at Lakeside School
1968:	wrote his first computer program
1970:	started his first software company
1973:	graduated from Lakeside

LIVEWORKSHEETS