GRAMMAR

WHEN vs. WHILE – Past Simple & Past Continuous

WHEN	*WHILE*
Used to introduce a short action (Past Simple).	*Used to introduce an action in progress (Past Continuous).*
It interrupts an action.	*It describes what was happening at that moment.*
***When** he arrived, I was studying* *I was studying **when** he arrived.*	***While** I was sleeping, the phone rang.* *The phone rang **while** I was sleeping*

Remember!

- ***WHEN = Short action (Past Simple).***
- ***WHILE = Long action (Past Continuous).***
- ***Both can be used at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence.***

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERBS.

1. While I _____ (walk) to school, I _____ (see) an accident.
2. My mother _____ (cook) dinner when the phone _____ (ring).
3. When the teacher _____ (enter) the classroom, the students _____ (talk).
4. We _____ (watch) a movie while my brother _____ (play) video games.
5. The children _____ (sleep) when their father _____ (arrive).
6. While Sarah _____ (do) her homework, her sister _____ (listen) to music.
7. I _____ (break) my glasses while I _____ (play) basketball.
8. The dog _____ (bark) when someone _____ (knock) on the door.
9. When I _____ (wake up), it _____ (rain) heavily.
10. My dad _____ (drive) home when he _____ (hear) a strange noise.
11. While the students _____ (take) the test, the principal _____ (visit) the classroom.
12. The lights _____ (go) out while we _____ (have) dinner.
13. When Tom _____ (fall) off his bike, he _____ (ride) very fast.

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14. I _____ (find) some money while I _____ (clean) my bedroom.

15. While we _____ (wait) for the bus, it _____ (start) to snow.

16. She _____ (not / pay) attention when the teacher _____ (explain) the activity.

17. The baby _____ (cry) while his mother _____ (talk) on the phone.

18. When the storm _____ (begin), the tourists _____ (walk) around the city.

19. I _____ (meet) an old friend while I _____ (shop) at the supermarket.

20. The students _____ (write) in their notebooks when the bell _____ (ring).

B. WRITE 4 SENTENCES USING *WHILE OR WHEN*

Example: *My mom was making lunch when little brother broke the vase.*

My teacher gave instructions while I was doing my homework.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS