Name _____ **Date** _____

Past Simple or Past Continuous?

Fill in the Blank: Use Each Bank Entry Once

Word Bank: were discussing • submitted • did not finish • was reading • rang

1. To present a completed event, finish this sentence: Yesterday, Maya _____ her essay.
2. To show an action in progress, finish this sentence: At eight last night, Leo _____ a novel.
3. To show the interrupting event, finish this sentence: Maya was writing when the bell _____.
4. To show simultaneous ongoing actions, finish this sentence: While I was taking notes, my classmates _____ the poem.
5. To make a past simple negative, finish this sentence: Yesterday, I _____ my draft.

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the best answer for each question. Use the reading to consider both grammatical form and intended meaning.

1. **Which sentence presents three completed events in sequence?**
    a. Ava was entering the room while Ben was speaking.
    b. Ava entered the room, greeted Ben, and sat down.
    c. Ava was sitting when Ben entered.
    d. Ava and Ben were talking at noon.
2. **In "Leo was reading when the phone rang," what does "was reading" communicate?**
    a. Leo began reading only after the phone rang.
    b. Leo completed the book before the phone rang.
    c. Leo's reading was already in progress when the phone rang.
    d. Leo's reading and the ringing were completed in sequence.

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3. **Which question correctly uses the past simple?**
    a. Did Maya wrote the paragraph?
    b. Was Maya write the paragraph?
    c. Did Maya writing the paragraph?
    d. Did Maya write the paragraph?
4. **Which sentence correctly shows two ongoing actions happening at the same time?**
    a. While I was reading, they were discussing the poem.
    b. While I were reading, they was discussing the poem.
    c. I read the poem and then discussed it.
    d. While I was read, they were discuss the poem.
5. **Why is the past simple appropriate in "Maya studied for three hours yesterday"?**
    a. All actions lasting several hours require the past simple.
    b. The speaker presents the entire study period as completed.
    c. The sentence focuses on an interruption during studying.
    d. The word yesterday always requires the past simple.

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Open-Ended Questions

Answer in complete sentences. Use grammatical terms and specific details from the reading to support your explanations.

1. **Compare "Maya studied for three hours yesterday" with "Maya was studying at eight last night." Explain the different focus of each tense and why duration alone does not determine the choice.**

2. **Correct this sentence to show an ongoing background action interrupted by a completed event: "They was discuss the poem when the bell ring." Explain the form and purpose of each corrected verb phrase.**

3. **Write two sentences about Maya and Leo. In the first, use two past continuous verbs to show simultaneous ongoing actions. In the second, use past simple verbs to show completed events in sequence. Explain how your tense choices communicate the difference.**

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