

Topic 5: Past Continuous

1 Read and complete the table.

while

when

digging

While

cooking

When

stole

Past Simple and Past Continuous

When two past actions happen at the same time, we use the **past simple** for the short action and the **past continuous** for the longer action. We often use these verb forms when one action interrupts another. We connect the actions with **when** (before the past simple) or **while** (before the past continuous).

When + Past Simple	(past simple) the fire alarm went off, I was (past continuous) dinner. The researchers were hiking (past simple) they saw the fossil.
While + Past Continuous	(past continuous) I wasn't looking, the thief (past simple) my bag. Oliver found a fossil (past simple) he was (past continuous) outside.

✦ Read again and write **when** or **while**.

- 1 I was reading a book the storm started.
- 2 she was eating a chocolate bar, Daisy took a selfie.
- 3 they saw the dinosaur skeleton, they were climbing up a huge rock.
- 4 Lucy was working on her fossil assignment the program crashed.
- 5 Andrea was riding her tricycle, she lost control and fell.

❖ Drag the boxes in the right to the right place in the left according to the pictures.



Lucy was working on her fossil assignment when the program crashed.

When they saw the dinosaur skeleton, they were climbing up a huge rock.

While she was eating a chocolate bar, Daisy took a selfie.

While Andrea was riding her tricycle, she lost control and fell.

I was reading a book when the storm started.