

Past Simple or Continuous

Answer key

1 Write the verb in the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

- 1 I was washing (wash) the dishes when the smoke alarm went off.
- 2 My flight landed (land) while I was sleeping.
- 3 We were walking (walk) to the car when it started to hail.
- 4 She dropped (drop) her coffee while she was getting off the train.
- 5 When the boss came in, everyone was pretending (pretend) to work.
- 6 He lost (lose) his wallet while he was shopping at the mall.
- 7 I wasn't paying (not / pay) attention when the manager explained the new rules.
- 8 Where were you living (live) when you met your wife?
- 9 My phone rang (ring) three times while I was in the meeting.
- 10 When I opened the door, two men were standing (stand) outside.

2 Write both verbs in the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

- 1 While I was cooking (cook), my husband was setting (set) the table.
- 2 I got (get) up, took (take) a shower and left for work.
- 3 The sun was shining (shine) and people were sitting (sit) outside the cafes.
- 4 When the alarm went off, I jumped (jump) out of bed and ran (run) to the kitchen.
- 5 While the kids were sleeping (sleep), we were watching (watch) a movie.
- 6 She was talking (talk) on the phone while she was driving (drive). That's dangerous.
- 7 When my parents arrived (arrive), we went (go) straight to the restaurant.
- 8 It was a crazy morning. Phones were ringing (ring) and everyone was rushing (rush) around.
- 9 I heard (hear) a strange noise, so I called (call) the police.

3 Circle the correct form.

- 1 I _____ my ex while I was waiting at the dentist.
☒ ran into / ☐ was running into / ☐ run into
- 2 What _____ when I called you? You sounded busy.
 did you do / ☒ were you doing / ☐ you were doing
- 3 We _____ dinner when the power went out.
 had / ☒ were having / ☐ have had
- 4 She _____ her ankle while she was running.
 was hurting / ☒ hurt / ☐ hurts
- 5 _____ I was looking for parking, my wife bought the tickets.
☒ While / ☐ During / ☐ Then
- 6 The car broke down _____ we were driving to Boston.
 during / ☒ while / ☐ then
- 7 Last Saturday I _____ the garage, washed the car and mowed the lawn.
 was cleaning / ☒ cleaned / ☐ had cleaning
- 8 When I got to the office, my coworkers _____ about the news. Everyone knew before me.
 talked / ☒ were talking / ☐ talk
- 9 I _____ the vacuum when you called, so I didn't hear the phone.
☒ was running / ☐ ran / ☐ run

4 Choose the correct sentence.

- 1 a) ☒ I was reading when the lights went out.
 b) ☐ I read when the lights were going out.
 c) ☐ I was read when the lights went out.
- 2 a) ☐ While I cooked dinner, the doorbell was ringing.
 b) ☒ While I was cooking dinner, the doorbell rang.
 c) ☐ While I was cooking dinner, the doorbell was ring.
- 3 a) ☒ I knew him when we were kids.
 b) ☐ I was knowing him when we were kids.
 c) ☐ I was know him when we were kids.
- 4 a) ☐ What did you doing at the airport so late?
 b) ☐ What you were doing at the airport so late?
 c) ☒ What were you doing at the airport so late?

4 Choose the correct sentence.

- 5 a) We were driving home when we saw the accident.
b) We drove home when we were seeing the accident.
c) We were drive home when we saw the accident.
- 6 a) He fell asleep while he watching TV.
b) He fell asleep while he was watching TV.
c) He was fall asleep while he was watching TV.

5 Put the words in order.

- 1 boss / was / in / sitting / traffic / I / my / when / called / .
I was sitting in traffic when my boss called.
- 2 bike / she / while / her / was / riding / she / broke / arm / her / .
She broke her arm while she was riding her bike.
- 3 going / you / where / police / you / the / stopped / when / were / ?
Where were you going when the police stopped you?
- 4 I / alarm / went / the / when / off / up / got / .
I got up when the alarm went off.
- 5 while / was / online / cooking / wife / shopping / was / I / my / .
My wife was shopping online while I was cooking.
- 6 boss / was / old / my / I / while / gas / getting / saw / I / .
I saw my old boss while I was getting gas.
- 7 client / you / were / when / working / arrived / the / ?
Were you working when the client arrived?
- 8 scored / watching / I / they / when / wasn't / .
I wasn't watching when they scored.

6 Find and correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 I was cutting the grass when it start to rain.

I was cutting the grass when it started to rain.

2 While I was work, someone stole my bike.

While I was working, someone stole my bike.

3 We was having lunch when the fire alarm went off.

We were having lunch when the fire alarm went off.

4 When I arrived, my sister was cook dinner.

When I arrived, my sister was cooking dinner.

5 He fell while he were climbing the stairs.

He fell while he was climbing the stairs.

6 Was they sleeping when you got home?

Were they sleeping when you got home?

7 While she was jogging, she find a wallet on the path.

While she was jogging, she found a wallet on the path.

8 Did you sleeping when I texted you last night?

Were you sleeping when I texted you last night?

9 I seen an accident while I was driving to work.

I saw an accident while I was driving to work.

YOUR LIFE

7 Write about a surprising moment from your life.

I WAS ... WHEN ...

WHILE I WAS ..., ...

Answers will vary.