

Exercises – past simple vs. Past continuous

CHOOSE THE CORRECT TENSE: SIMPLE PAST OR PAST PROGRESSIVE

1. When the phone (ring), I (have) a bath.
2. Large crowds (wait) at the station when the Prime Minister (arrive).
3. I (see) you yesterday. You (drink) ginger beer at a cafe , but you (not see) me.
4. When the teacher (come) in, the boys (play).
5. My friends (sing) when I (come) into the room
6. The teacher (talk) to the class when the headmaster (enter) the room five minutes ago.
7. While the two thieves (quarel) someone (steal) the car.
8. The teacher (come) into the classroom unusually early and one of the boys, who (smoke) a cigarette, (have) no time time to put it out.
9. What you (do) when the light (go) out an hour ago?
- 10 .When I (meet) them in the street, they (go) to the cinema.
- 11.They (discuss) the football match when the teacher (enter) the room.
- 12.He (sit) in a cafe when I (se) him.
13. He (have) a bath when the phone rang. Very unwillingly he (get) out of the bath and (go) to answer it.
- 14.The boys (play) cards when they (hear) their father’s step. They immediately (hide) the cards and (take) out their lesson books.
- 15.While the guests (dance) thieves (break) into the house and (steal) a lot of fur coats.
- 16.While I (swim) someone (steal) my clothes and I (have) to walk home in my bathing suit.
- 17.As my father (leave) the house yesterday morning, the postman (arrive).
- 18.The men (drink) together when an argument (break) out yesterday.
19. What (go on) in your house when I (call) on you last night? I (ring) the bell three times, but you (not answer) the door.

Past Continuous vs Past Simple



Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the given verbs.

1. I _____ (instant message) with my dad about how my exam was like when the teacher _____ (call) me.
2. Mary _____ (post) her project to her teacher yesterday.
3. Joe _____ (read) postings about the next history lesson’s topic on the internet at two o’clock yesterday.
4. BTW, my sister _____ (see) your posting from your blog on google while she _____ (surf) the net.
5. _____ you _____ (do) a Boolean search for your homework? It really helps you find your query.
6. ICYMI: The school _____ (not upload) the profiles at eight o’clock last night according to the logs.

Past Continuous vs Past Simple



Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the given verbs.

1. Tim _____ (direct message) to his tutor when I _____ (come) home.
2. He _____ (use) Boolean operators on the wiki page the week before last.
3. I _____ (download) the pictures of the trip at nine o’clock last night.
4. Why _____ you _____ (not create) an account on our intranet? You can’t log in now.
5. Sam _____ (watch) videos on YouTube while we _____ (do) our math homework.
6. While Sandra _____ (write) on her Tumblr page, I _____ (send) her a text message.

Past Simple vs Past Continuous

Find the mistakes and correct them.

1. While I chatted to Sue, the phone rang.

2. He is passing the ball to Jones and then ran down the pitch.

3. Who are they play against last summer?

4. We didn't went surfing in Australia last year.

5. I waited for you in the car park when it started to rain.

6. When he felt ill, he was taking some medicine. Then, he went to bed.

7. While he writing someone knocked at the door.

8. The story was started 18th century in a farm house.

9. I didn't driving the car at two yesterday.

10. Did you waiting your brother in the park this morning?
