Grammar, Time

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Past continuous and past simple

3

TeenLink

TRUE STORIES

A Friendly Attack

by Rick Grady



One afternoon last summer, I was playing football with some friends at the park while my brother was walking our dog. It was a warm afternoon, but the sky was full of dark grey clouds. My best friend, Simon, and I were playing for the same team. While Simon was running with the ball, I fell on top of him by mistake. He lost the ball. Simon got really angry and shouted at me. We were still arguing about it when it began to rain very hard. Then there was a bright flash of lightning and, a few moments later, a loud peal of thunder - it was a thunderstorm! I tried to run home but my knee hurt from the fall, so I stood under a big oak tree to get out of the rain. I called my brother on my mobile to see if he was OK. While I was talking on the phone, someone grabbed me and pulled me away from the tree. I fell on the ground. When I opened my eyes, Simon was standing over me. 'You idiot!' he yelled. I was shocked. I couldn't believe my best friend was still so angry with me! It was just a silly football game! Then another flash of lightning hit the big oak tree. When I turned round, I saw a big black patch of burned grass right under it. 'I was standing there only a few moments ago!' I said. 'You idiot!' Simon answered. 'Don't you know it is dangerous to stand under a tree or use a mobile phone in a thunderstorm?' So, now I know that my friend wasn't angry with me. He just wanted to save my life!

Complete the tables.

Past continuous

Statements			
Positive	I / He / She / It	was	
	We / You / They	were	playing.
Negative	I / He / She / It	was not (wasn't)	walk
	We / You / They	were not ()	

Questions		
	I / he / she / it	play?
Were	you / we / they	walking?

Short diswers
Yes, I / he / she / it was. No, I / he / she /
Yes, you / we / they

Short answers

Wh- questions

Where	was	I / he / she / it	going?
VVIICIC	were	you / we / they	gomig.

Look at the spelling rules on page 140.

2 Read the information.

We use the past continuous to talk about:

- an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past.
 - We were having lunch at one o'clock yesterday.

I was sleeping at half past nine.

- two actions that were in progress at the same time in the past. In this case, we use while with the past continuous.
 While Becky was watching TV, I was doing
 - Dad was reading his newspaper while mum was making dinner.

my homework.

3 Look at the table and write sentences in the past continuous. Then complete the table and write about you.

At eight o'clock	last night			
	Tanya	Bill	Ray and Bob	Me
do homework	X	~	Х	
listen to music	×	Х	V	
watch TV	✓	X	Х	
have dinner	✓	X	✓	
sleep	×	Х	Х	

ı	Tanya / listen / to music	Tanya wasn't listening to music
	Bill / do / his homework	
3	Ray and Bob / watch / TV	
4	Tanya / have / dinner	
5	Ray and Bob / listen / to music	
6	Bill / sleep	
7	I / do / my homework	
8	I / watch / TV	

4 Look, choose and complete the sentences.

eat his dinner talk on the phone watch TV read a book play wash the car

What were they doing last Sunday at 4 o'clock?

Lucy was reading a book
Mrs Hardy
Peter and Harry
Mr Hardy
Beth and Bella
Cosmo



5	Look at the picture in Exercise 4. Then cover it. Ask and answer questions.					
	Last Sunday at 4 o'clock					
I	Cosmo / play / with a toy mouse?		ha waan ² t. Ha waa aa	tina bio dinner		
2	Was Cosmo playing with a toy m	ouse: INO	, ne wash t. He was ea	iting his dinner		
2	Lucy / watch TV?					
3	Mrs Hardy / wash the car?			•		
1.	Determined Lighter / de their beneau					
4	Peter and Harry / do their home					
5	Mr Hardy / drink tea?			•		
,	D. J. / It					
6	Beth / listen to music?					
				•		
	Complete with the past continuous.					
A:	Were you working on your	History projec	t at noon yesterday? (y	ou / work)		
B:	3: No, I ² a DVD. (watch)					
	While you 4	(study) for y	our test, we ⁵	ready		
	for the party. (get) I know!					
		2 (6 /				
	⁶ talking t	_		! (sing)		
	Where ⁹ ?	` ,		(3iiig)		
	To the park, I think.	(the bogs / go)				
	Did Emma help you?					
	No! She went out while I 10		(tidy) the room!			
7			. 3/			
	Complete the tables.					
	Past continuous		Past simple			
	Long action		Short action			
	He watching TV		l left.			
	They talking	when	we went to bed.			

Past continuous		Past simple
Long action		Short action
He watching TV They talking when		l left. we went to bed.
Past continuous		Past simple
Long action		Short action
While I having breakfast, we waiting for the bus,		the phone rang. it started to rain.

8 Read the information.

 We can use the past simple and past continuous together, to talk about an action that happened while another action was in progress.

We use the past continuous for the long action, the action that was in progress. We use the past simple for the shorter action.

He was watching TV when I left.

- We often use when before the past simple (before the shorter action).
 They were talking when I went to bed.
 When I got up this morning, it was raining.
- We can also use while before the past continuous (before the longer action).
 While we were waiting for the bus, it started to rain.

The phone rang while I was having breakfast.

Be careful! We use:

when + past simple: I was having lunch when the phone rang.
while + past continuous: The phone rang while I was having lunch.

Remember!

- When we talk about actions that happened one after the other, we use the past simple for both actions: Compare: I got up at seven and had breakfast at eight. When I got up, my brother was having breakfast.
- When we talk about actions that were in progress at the same time, we use the past continuous for both actions.
 Compare:

While I was listening to my new CD, my sister was writing an e-mail to her friend. I was listening to my new CD when my sister came back.

9	Complete with the past simple or past continuous.
I	Tim was getting ready for school when I got up. (get)
2	Georgia was having a shower when we out. (go)
3	when you left the house this morning? (it / rain)
4	She was talking to Luke when Pete in. (come)
5	I was reading a comic when I asleep. (fall)
6	When I her, she was doing her homework. (phone)
10	Complete with the past simple or past continuous.
- 1	Mike and Sarah were waiting (wait) for us when we got (get) to the cinema.
2	I (get) ready for bed when I (hear) a strange noise.
3	My mum (live) in London when she (meet) my dad.
4	What (you / do) when I (ring) you this morning?
5	When I (see) them, they (go) to the sports centre.
6	She (make) a cake for her brother's birthday when she
	(cut) her finger.

Circle the correct answer.

- I Was it snowing when while you went to bed last night?
- 2 When / While I was walking home, I found £50 in the street.
- 3 I wasn't sleeping when / while he came back.
- 4 I found your keys when / while I was tidying the living room.
- 5 Fred phoned when / while you were sleeping.
- 6 We were having lunch when / while the fire started.
- 7 I saw an accident when / while I was waiting for the bus this morning.
- 8 When / While I walked into the room, Dave was reading my diary!

4				
Œ	19	Complete with	the past sim	nle or nact continuous
V	ے ا	Complete with	i tile pust sill	ple or past continuous.

12	Complete with the past simple or past continuous.					
I	The film started	(start) at eight and finish	ed (finish) at ten.			
2		(you / study) when I	(call) you last night?			
3	While we	(walk) to school, we	(see) Kim and Amy.			
4	He(get up),(have) breakfast and					
	(go) to work.					
5	It was eleven o'clock. I (have) a bath and Pam					
	(write) an e-mail to her friend.					
6	She	(close) the door,	(take off) her jacket and			
		(sit down) on the sofa.				
7	1	(lose) my watch while I	(swim).			
8	8 At 5.30 yesterday afternoon, Peter (do) his homework and Luc					
		(have) a French lesson.				
13	Complete with the past simple or past continuous.					
	It was late on a Friday afternoon and Mr Jules was walking (walk) home from					
	work. There was a big lorry outside his block of flats. 'Somebody's moving house', he ² (think).					
	He ³	(stand) outside the front door	when he ⁴			
	(see) two men at the door. They ⁵ (carry) a huge TV. Mr Jules					
	6	(hold) the door open for them, th	ey ⁷ (thank)			
	him and they 8	(carry) the TV to th	e lorry.			

Then, Mr Jules ⁹ (go) upstairs to his flat on the second floor. While he 10 (look) for his keys, he 11 (notice) that his door was open. He 12 (remember) the two men with the TV and he nearly 13 (faint)! The two men were thieves and the TV they ¹⁴ (carry) was his TV!

14	omplete the questions with one word. Then write true answers.		
I	What you doing at ten o'clock last night?		
2	you watch TV on Sunday afternoon?		
3 What your best friend doing while you were having lunch yesterday?			
4	you sleeping at six o'clock on Sunday morning?		
5 Was it raining you got up this morning?			
6	What time you go to bed last night?		
W	/riting practice		
15	Complete with the past simple or past continuous. Then put the paragraphs in the correct order. Last Saturday, Mr Fry drove		
	Then he ¹⁷ (remember) that Lucky, his pet parrot was on the back seat. He ¹⁸ decide to go to the police station. While he ¹⁹ (pay) the taxi driver he ²⁰ (see) his car – it		
	was in the police car park!		