

Past Continuous vs Past Simple

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2 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*.

- 1 A: What 1) ► *happened* (happen) to you?
 B: I 2) (fall) off the ladder while I 3) (clean) the windows.
- 2 A: Where 1) (you/be) yesterday afternoon? I 2) (call) you but there 3) (be) no answer.
 B: I 4) (be) at home but you 5) (probably/ring) me while I 6) (cut) the grass outside in the garden. Why?
 A: I 7) (have) nothing to do, so I 8) (think) we could go to the cinema.
- 3 A: There 1) (be) a power cut last night.
 B: Yes, I know. I 2) (surf) the Net when the lights 3) (go) out.
- 4 A: So what 1) (happen)?
 B: We 2) (walk) through the woods when we 3) (hear) someone scream.

3 Underline the correct item.

- 1 Susan was driving/drove to work when she was getting/got a flat tyre.
- 2 He was leaving/left work and was going/went straight to the train station.
- 3 She was walking/walked in the park when a dog was attacking/attacked her.
- 4 I was riding/rode my bike in the park when it was starting/started to rain.
- 5 It was snowing/snowed all day yesterday so we were not playing/did not play outside.
- 6 At 7 o'clock this morning, she was making/made breakfast for her family.

4 Claire called the fire brigade after she saw a fire in the building next door. After the fire, a fire fighter questioned Claire about what happened. Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or *past continuous*.

- F: Where 1) ► *were you* (you/be) when you first 2) (notice) the fire?
 C: I 3) (be) in my kitchen and I 4) (cook) dinner for my husband.
 F: 5) (you/see) the fire from your kitchen window?
 C: Yes. I 6) (take) something out of the oven when I 7) (hear) a loud explosion. I 8) (run) to the window and I 9) (look) outside. I 10) (see) flames coming from the 1st floor of the building. People 11) (shout) and 12) (run) out of the building.
 F: What 13) (you/do) then?
 C: I 14) (call) the fire brigade immediately.
 F: Thank you.



5 Circle the mistake (A or B), then correct it.

- 1 Mary was talking on the phone when the doorbell was ringing.
 A B
 was ringing. ► rang
 (B)
- 2 Peter was studying when his sister was listening to music.
 A B
- 3 Laura was opening the door and walked into the house.
 A B