

# Past simple or past continuous

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

- 1 Bill ► *was making* (make) a cup of coffee when the phone ► *rang* (ring).
- 2 Daisy ..... (fall) over while she ..... (skate).
- 3 I ..... (play) a computer game when the electricity ..... (go out).
- 4 Sue ..... (cook) when she ..... (burn) her finger.
- 5 They ..... (jog) in the park when a dog ..... (attack) them.
- 6 The alarm ..... (go off) while we ..... (sleep) heavily.

2 What happened to the people? Make sentences.

- 1 Tom/study – Sam/call him  
► *Tom was studying when Sam called him.*
- 2 Liz/sleep – the earthquake/happen  
.....
- 3 Samantha/walk/in the park – it/begin to rain  
.....
- 4 Tony/exercise – he/pull/muscle  
.....
- 5 Kelly/drive/car – she/get a flat tyre  
.....
- 6 Paul/chop wood – he/cut/finger  
.....

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

- 1 A: What 1) ► *happened* (happen) to Alex?  
B: He 2) ..... (play) football when he 3) ..... (fall) over and 4) ..... (break) his leg.  
A: 5) ..... (he/go) to hospital?  
B: Yes, he did.
- 2 A: When 1) ..... (you/see) Tony?  
B: While I 2) ..... (wait) at the bus stop yesterday morning.
- 3 A: I 1) ..... (call) you last night but you 2) ..... (not/answer). Where were you?  
B: I 3) ..... (exercise) at the gym.
- 4 A: What 1) ..... (your kids/do) when you 2) ..... (come) home last night?  
B: They 3) ..... (watch) a film on television.

5 Underline the correct item.

- 1 Bill was surfing/surfed the Net when the doorbell was ringing/rang.
- 2 First, Timothy got/was getting out of bed and then he put/was putting on his slippers.
- 3 Last year, we travelled/were travelling to India on holiday.
- 4 At 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, David and his brother were giving/gave their dog a bath.
- 5 John was studying/studied while his mother was cooking/cooked dinner.
- 6 Claire was running/ran for the bus when she was tripping/tripped over her shoelaces.
- 7 The students listened/were listening carefully while the teacher spoke/was speaking.
- 8 The baby was sleeping/slept at 10 o'clock this morning.