

ONLINE EXERCISES

ENGLISH

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PAST SIMPLE AND PAST
PROGRESSIVE

Simple Past or Past Progressive

Exercise 1

Put the verbs into the correct tense (Simple Past or Past Progressive).

1. While Tom was reading, Amely was watching 🗨️ a documentary on TV.
2. Marvin came home, switched on the computer and checked 🗨️ his emails.
3. The thief sneaked into the house, stole the jewels and left 🗨️ without a trace.
4. Nobody (listen) were listening while the teacher was explaining 🗨️ the tenses.
5. While we were doing a sight-seeing tour, our friends (lie) were lying on the beach.
6. He woke up and looked 🗨️ at his watch.

Simple Past or Past Progressive

Exercise 2 ●●○○○

Put the verbs into the correct tense (Simple Past or Past Progressive).

1. The receptionist **welcomed** the guests and **asked** 🗨️ them to fill in the form.
2. The car **broke** down and we **had** 🗨️ to walk home.
3. The boys **were swimming** while the girls **were sunbathing** 🗨️ .
4. My father **came** in, **looked** around and **told** 🗨️ me to tidy up my room.
5. As long as one group **was preparing** dinner, the others **were collecting** 🗨️ wood for their campfire.
6. While the parents **were having** breakfast, their children **were running** 🗨️ about.
7. Martha **turned** off the lights and **went** 🗨️ to bed.

Simple Past or Past Progressive

Exercise 3 ●●○○○

Put the verbs into the correct tense (Simple Past or Past Progressive).

1. We **were waiting** for Jane, when suddenly Louis **came** around the corner.
2. I **was cycling** through the park, when I **heard** a strange noise.
3. He **passed** her a message when the teacher **wasn't looking**.
4. I (fall) **was falling** asleep while I **was watching** TV last night.
5. When Mike and Jane **were painting** the walls, their dog **knocked** over the paint pot.
6. Tom **broke** his leg when he **was playing** frisbee.
7. The phone **rang** when I **was sitting** on the toilet.

Simple Past or Past Progressive

Exercise 4 ●●○○○

Put the verbs into the correct tense (Simple Past or Past Progressive).

1. I (jog) was jogging in the park, when two squirrels crossed my way.
2. Robert fell off the ladder when he was picking cherries.
3. Archimedes discovered the theory of buoyancy while he was taking a bath.
4. When we were travelling around Ireland, we met some very nice people.
5. While she was speaking on the phone, the milk boiled over.
6. When I left the house this morning, the sun was shining .
7. Caroline burned her hand when she was ironing her clothes.

Simple Past or Past Progressive

Exercise 5 ●●○○○

Put the verbs into the correct tense (Simple Past or Past Progressive).

1. Two days ago, a murder **happened** in Market Street at about seven pm.
2. Yesterday, Sherlock Holmes **arrived** at the crime scene to investigate.
3. He **asked** one of the tenants in the house.
4. »What **were you doing** yesterday at seven?«
5. »I **was watching** a football match on TV.«
6. »(be) Was you alone?«
7. »Yes, I **was** .«
8. »**Did you hear** anything suspicious?«
9. »Yes, about seven o'clock, two people **were arguing** in the hallway. But the football match **was** so interesting.

So I just **turned up** the telly and then **didn't hear** anything anymore.«

Simple Past or Past Progressive

Exercise 6 ●●○○○

Put the verbs into the correct tense (Simple Past or Past Progressive).

1. A: »What **were you doing** ☞ yesterday at 8 pm?«
2. B: »I **was sitting** ☞ in the pub with Sam. Why?«
3. A: »I **was driving** to the sports centre at that time to play squash with a few friends. As we **were** only three players, I **tried** to ring you to ask if you would like to come as well. But I **didn't reach** ☞ you at home.«
4. B: »Why (ring / not / you) _____ my mobile?«
5. A: »I actually **wanted** to ring your mobile, but by accident I **dialed** William's number. He **wasn't doing** anything special at that moment and really **liked** ☞ the idea of playing squash with us.«

Simple Past or Past Progressive

Put the verbs into the correct tense (simple past or past progressive).

1. When I **was doing** the washing-up, I **broke** a plate. 🗨️
2. While Tom **was playing** the piano, his mother **was doing** the washing-up. 🗨️
3. He **drank** some juice and then he **ate** a few chips. 🗨️
4. I **was having** dinner when I suddenly **heard** a loud bang. 🗨️
5. When my father **was working** in the garden, an old friend **passed** by to see him. 🗨️
6. She **went** to school, (take) **toke** out her textbook and **began** to learn.
7. When it **started** to rain, our dog **wanted** to come inside. 🗨️
8. When Jane **was doing** a language course in Ireland, she **visited** Blarney Castle. 🗨️
9. When I **was** on my way home, I **saw** an accident. 🗨️
10. I **didn't understand** what they **were talking** about. 🗨️

Simple Past or Past Progressive

Exercise 8 ●●○○○

Put the verbs into the correct tense (Simple Past or Past Progressive).

1. When I **got** up yesterday, the sun **was shining** .
2. It **was** a beautiful morning.
3. So I **decided** to cycle around a little.
4. I **went** to the shed and **took** out my bike.
5. While I **was cycling** past some villages, I **saw** some people in their gardens.
6. One man **was mowing** the grass while his wife **was picking** strawberries.
7. After one hour of cycling in sunshine, a big fat raincloud suddenly **appeared** and it **started** to rain.
8. Luckily, a farmer **noticed** me and **told** me to come in.
9. While it **was raining** outside, I **was sitting** in the farmer's house.
10. After a while, the sun **came** out again.
11. I **thanked** the farmer for his hospitality and **moved** on.