

# Simple past (prétérit) or Past Continuous (be+ing) Exercises



**Exercise 1 Complete** with simple past or past continuous. Use the audio for help/correction.

- 1) I was walking (walk) in a park when it started (start) to rain.
- 2) Peter cut (cut) his finger. It happened when he was cooking (cook).
- 3) Yesterday my mother arrived (arrive) at the airport at 6pm. I was waiting (wait) for her with Simon. We were chatting (chat).
- 4) Were you sleeping (sleep) yesterday when the accident happened (happen) ?
- 5) When he entered (enter) the room, everyone was laughing (laugh). He shouted (shout) and everyone calmed down (calm).
- 6) How fast were you driving (drive) when the accident happened (happen)?
- 7) What were you doing (do) at 10 o'clock yesterday? I was sleeping (sleep).
- 8) What did you do (do) this weekend? I went (go) skiing and I swam (swim) in the sea.
- 9) She met (meet) Henry as she was waiting (wait) for a train. They had (have) a coffee and decided (decide) to meet again soon.
- 10) Yesterday I had (have) lunch with Peter. Then I went (go) to the supermarket and bought (buy) some chocolate.
- 11) Yesterday when Jessica called (call) we were having (have) lunch.

**Exercise 2 Complete the story. Use the audio for help or correction.**

We \_\_\_\_had\_\_\_\_ (have) a party yesterday. Everything \_\_\_\_was going\_\_\_\_ (go) well, people \_\_\_\_were having\_\_\_\_ (have) fun, some people \_\_\_\_were dancing\_\_\_\_ (dance), some \_\_\_\_were playing\_\_\_\_ (play) games. It was great! But then everything \_\_\_\_started\_\_\_\_ (start) to go wrong.

I \_\_\_\_was chatting\_\_\_\_ (chat) with a friend when we \_\_\_\_heard\_\_\_\_ (hear) a siren. It \_\_\_\_was\_\_\_\_ (be) a fire truck! We ran downstairs to see what \_\_\_\_was happening\_\_\_\_ (happen). When we \_\_\_\_stepped\_\_\_\_ (step) outside, the firemen \_\_\_\_were getting\_\_\_\_ (get) ready, unrolling the hose and setting the ladder.

"What's happening!" I \_\_\_\_asked\_\_\_\_ (ask). "There's a fire" \_\_\_\_shouted\_\_\_\_ (shout) the policeman

I \_\_\_\_looked\_\_\_\_ (look) up and \_\_\_\_couldn't\_\_\_\_ (can't) believe my eyes : A fire \_\_\_\_was burning\_\_\_\_ (burn) on the roof of the building!

"The party is ruined" I \_\_\_\_moaned\_\_\_\_ (moan). I \_\_\_\_was\_\_\_\_ (be) very sad.

**Exercise 3 Ask the question with the verb in Past Simple or continuous**

1) Q What \_\_\_\_were\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_doing\_\_\_\_ at 3pm yesterday? (do) A I was sleeping .

2) Q What \_\_\_\_did\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_buy\_\_\_\_ ? (buy) A I bought a T-shirt .

3) Q Where \_\_\_\_was\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_going\_\_\_\_ when you met him? (go) A He was going to the swimming pool.

4) Q \_\_\_\_Was\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_sleeping\_\_\_\_? (sleep) A Yes and you were snoring very loudly!

5) Q Where \_\_\_\_did\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_go\_\_\_\_? (go) A I think they went to Italy.

6) Q Why \_\_\_\_was\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_shouting\_\_\_\_ ? (shout) A Because she was angry.

7) Q When \_\_\_\_did\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_finish\_\_\_\_ ? (finish) A At 7 pm.

8) Q What \_\_\_\_were/did\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_talking/talk\_\_\_\_ about? (talk) A I don't know I wasn't listening.

9) Q \_\_\_\_Was\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_driving\_\_\_\_ (drive) very fast? A No he wasn't.

10) Q \_\_\_\_Did\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_play\_\_\_\_ (play) well? A Yes he did.