

Narrative tenses: Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect

1. Match the sentences with the correct uses of Past Continuous.

SAMPLE SENTENCES:

- 1) I **was washing** the dishes when my mom called.
- 2) When I was a kid, we **were living** in Berlin.
- 3) What **were you doing** at 8pm yesterday?
- 4) While I **was playing** computer games, my girlfriend **was reading** a book.
- 5) It was a nice day and the sun **was shining**. We **were sitting** in our garden.



USES OF PAST CONTINUOUS:

- a) Describing a scene in a story
- b) Describing two actions happening at the same time in the past
- c) Describing a past action in progress interrupted by another event
- d) Describing an action in progress at a specific time in the past
- e) Describing temporary situations in the past

2. Now, write 5 sentences representing different uses of Past Continuous from the previous exercise. Each sentence should include two verbs from the box below.

Example: *When I was driving to work, my boss called to tell me some good news.*

drive	walk	read	wash	sit	look for
call	hear	buy	find	decide	see
sing	ride	rain	fall	watch	meet

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3. Look at the sentences below and decide which action happened first.

EXAMPLE:

I didn't pass my exam because I hadn't studied at all.

2nd action

1st action

a) When I came back home, I realized that my car had been stolen.

b) We hadn't booked the table, so we had to stand in a long queue waiting for a table.

c) When I got to work, the meeting had already finished.

d) I missed my train because I had overslept.

e) I left home, got into the car, and drove to work.

f) We hadn't done the shopping, so we ordered a pizza.

4. Studying the sentences from the previous exercise, choose correct options in the rules below.

- We use Past Perfect to show which action happened *first/second*
- We use *Past Simple/Past Perfect* when actions happen immediately after each other
- We use *Past Simple/Past Perfect* to give a reason for some event

5. Using Past Simple and Past Perfect, come up with sentences with the words given below.

realize

so

because

when

already

6. Complete the story below using Past Simple, Past Continuous and Past Perfect, and the verbs in brackets.

It was a nice day and the sun shined..... (shine). I

was watching(watch) the news when my dog got up and

went to the door. Time for a walk. I put..... (put) on my



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jacket,took..... (take) my phone andleft..... (leave) home. We went to the park. While my dog ..was running(run) around, I .was talking. (talk) on the phone with a friend. After some time, I got hungry so I went to a nearby food truck and ordered a hotdog. When it was ready, I wanted to pay but I realized that I had not taken (not take) my wallet. I was quite embarrassed and the guy from the food truck wanted his money. I told him I didn't have my wallet with me and I'd be back in 15 minutes with his money. He agreed but asked me to leave something as a guarantee. I decided to leave him my watch. I got home, took some money, and went back to pay for my hotdog. When Igot..... (get) there, the food truck^{had already left}..... (already leave) together with my watch.

7. **Work in pairs or groups. Come up with a story together. The first person builds a few sentences connected with first two images. The next person continues the story by building more sentences based on two next images.**

1.



4.



2.



5.



3.

