

My dog ate my homework

1. Discuss the questions.

- What excuses do people often give when:
 - they are late?
 - they miss a deadline at work?
 - they don't want to go to a party?
 - they don't want to help with housework?

excuse:
reason people give to explain why they did something wrong or why they don't want to do something

2. Think what excuse you would give in the situations below.

- a) Your partner asked you to go grocery shopping but you didn't do it.
- b) You didn't do your homework.
- c) You got on a bus but didn't pay for the ticket.
- d) You lost some important documents your boss gave you.
- e) You missed an important meeting at work.
- f) You borrowed a friend's laptop and broke it.

3. Match the excuses with the situations in ex. 2.

- 1) I think someone stole them when I was sitting in a restaurant.
- 2) When I was doing it, my dog ate the notebook.
- 3) I thought it was free.
- 4) My apologies! I left work late and was so tired I came straight home. Let's order something for dinner and I'll go tomorrow.
- 5) It was an accident. I dropped sauce on it while I was cooking dinner.
- 6) I'm really sorry! I was talking to a client and completely forgot about it.

4. Look at some of the excuses again and complete the tasks on the next page.

- I think someone stole them when I was sitting in a restaurant.
- When I was doing it, my dog ate the notebook.
- I dropped sauce on it while I was cooking dinner.
- I was talking to a client and I completely forgot about it.

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- a) Complete the table with verbs from the sentences.

PAST CONTINUOUS	PAST SIMPLE
was sitting	stole
.....
.....
.....

- b) Look at the sentence below and decide which statements (1-4) are true for Past Continuous and which for Past Simple.

Past Simple

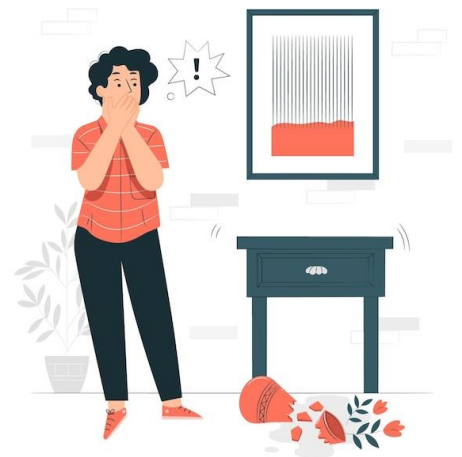
*I **dropped** sauce on it while I **was cooking** dinner.*

Past Continuous

- 1) The action started first.
- 2) The action came second.
- 3) The action was completed.
- 4) The action was in progress.

5. Choose the correct verb forms.

- a) I can't go hiking. I **was breaking/broke** my leg when I **played/was playing** football last week.
- b) I'm not sure where the book is. I think I **was dropping/dropped** it when I **was running/ran** to catch the train.
- c) It **was raining/rained** last night so I **was deciding/decided** to stay home.
- d) I **was burning/burnt** my hand last night while I **was making/made** dinner. I think I should go to the doctor's.
- e) Sorry I didn't pick up. I **was sleeping/slept** when you **were calling/called**.
- f) I would love to come to your party, but I can't. I **was walking/walked** down the street yesterday and I **was tripping and falling/tripped and fell**. My ankle really hurts now.
- g) It wasn't my fault. I **was breaking/broke** the glass when I **was washing/washed** it.



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6. Look at the photos and discuss the questions.

- What happened?
- Have any of the situations ever happened to you? What did you do or say?
- Should the people apologize? Why/Why not?



7. Look at the photos in ex. 6 again and create excuses for what happened.

Use the verbs to create sentences using Past Simple and Past Continuous.

- a) wait, call
- b) write, feel really tired
- c) paint, think
- d) walk, trip over

8. Your teacher will give you cards with different situations. Think of an excuse or an explanation you can give for each of them using Past Simple and Past Continuous. Then, tell your partner and they will try to guess what the situation is. Don't use the words in the cards! Give your partner extra help if necessary.