

Simple Past & Past Continuous Exercises

► Practice 15. Simple past of irregular verbs. (Chart 2-5)

Complete the sentences. Write the simple past form of the irregular verbs in the list. Pay special attention to spelling. Use each verb only once.

bet	freeze*	sink	split
choose	lead	✓ spend	upset
fly	ring	spin	weep

1. Dr. Perez spent ten hours in the operating room performing delicate surgery.
2. On my first day at the university, my English teacher _____ the class to our classroom. We all followed him.
3. Sally and I made a friendly bet. I _____ her that my grade on the math test would be higher than hers.
4. I _____ when I heard the tragic news. Everyone else cried too.
5. As she got up, Lina _____ the table, and everything on top of it fell to the floor.
6. Paul wanted to make a fire, but the logs were too big. So he _____ them with his axe.
7. When I threw a piece of wood from the shore, it floated on top of the water. When I threw a rock, it _____ immediately to the bottom of the lake.
8. In 1927, Charles Lindbergh _____ from New York to Paris in 33 hours and 30 minutes.
9. When the children _____ around and around, they became dizzy.
10. The telephone _____ several times and then stopped before I could answer it.
11. William had trouble deciding which sweater he liked best, but he finally _____ the blue one.
12. The cold temperatures _____ the water in the pond, so we can go ice-skating today.



► Practice 16. The simple past and the past progressive. (Charts 2-7 and 2-8)

Complete the sentences. Write the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. Maria (*call*) _____ me as soon as she got the good news.
2. Last night at about nine o'clock we (*watch*) _____ TV when someone knocked at the door.
3. During the study period in class yesterday, it was hard for me to concentrate because the student next to me (*hum*) _____.
4. When Harry (*meet*) _____ Jenny, he immediately fell in love with her.
5. Jack was rushing to catch the bus when I (*see*) _____ him.

*freeze = stop moving completely.

6. Last Saturday while Sandy (*clean*) _____ out the attic, she found her grandmother's wedding dress.
7. It started to rain while I (*drive*) _____ to work this morning. I didn't have an umbrella with me. I (*get*) _____ very wet when I stepped out of my car.
8. When we looked outside during the storm, we saw that the wind (*blow*) _____ very hard, and the trees (*bend*) _____ over in the wind.
9. When the teacher came into the room, most of the children (*play*) _____ together nicely. But over in the corner, Bobby (*pull*) _____ Annie's hair. The teacher quickly ran over and pulled Bobby away from Annie.

► **Practice 17. The simple past and the past progressive.** (Charts 2-7 and 2-8)

Write "1" before the action that started first. Write "2" before the action that started second.

1. When the alarm clock rang, I was sleeping.
 2 The alarm clock rang.
 1 I was sleeping.
2. When I saw Dr. Jarvis yesterday evening, he was waving at me.
 ___ I saw Dr. Jarvis yesterday evening.
 ___ He was waving at me.
3. When I saw Dr. Jarvis yesterday evening, he waved at me.
 ___ I saw Dr. Jarvis yesterday evening.
 ___ He waved at me.
4. I closed the windows when it was raining.
 ___ I closed the windows.
 ___ It was raining.
5. I was closing the windows when it began to rain.
 ___ I was closing the windows.
 ___ It began to rain.
6. The server brought the check when we were eating our desserts.
 ___ The server brought the check.
 ___ We were eating our desserts.
7. When the doorbell rang, Sam went to the door. "Who is it?" he asked.
 ___ The doorbell rang.
 ___ Sam went to the door.
8. Sam was going to the door when the doorbell rang. "I'm coming, Bob," he said. "I saw you walking up the sidewalk."
 ___ The doorbell rang.
 ___ Sam was already going to the door.

► **Practice 18. The simple past and the past progressive.** (Charts 2-7 and 2-8)

Circle the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. We (*had / were having*) a wonderful dinner last night to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary.
2. We (*had / were having*) a wonderful time when suddenly the electric power went out.
3. When Richard (*stopped / was stopping*) his car suddenly, the groceries (*fell / were falling*) out of the grocery bags and (*spilled / were spilling*) all over the floor of the car.
4. When I was a child, my mother always (*served / was serving*) cookies and milk to my friends and me when they (*came / were coming*) home with me after school.
5. When we (*looked / were looking*) in on our baby last night, he (*slept / was sleeping*). I think he (*dreamt / was dreaming*) about something nice because he (*smiled / was smiling*).
6. A: Why is Henry in the hospital?
B: He (*worked / was working*) on his car in the garage when the gas tank (*exploded / was exploding*).
A: Oh! What (*caused / was causing*) the explosion?
B: Henry (*dropped / was dropping*) a match too near the gas tank.

► **Practice 19. Simple present, present progressive, simple past, past progressive.** (Charts 2-1 → 2-4; 2-5, 2-7, and 2-8)

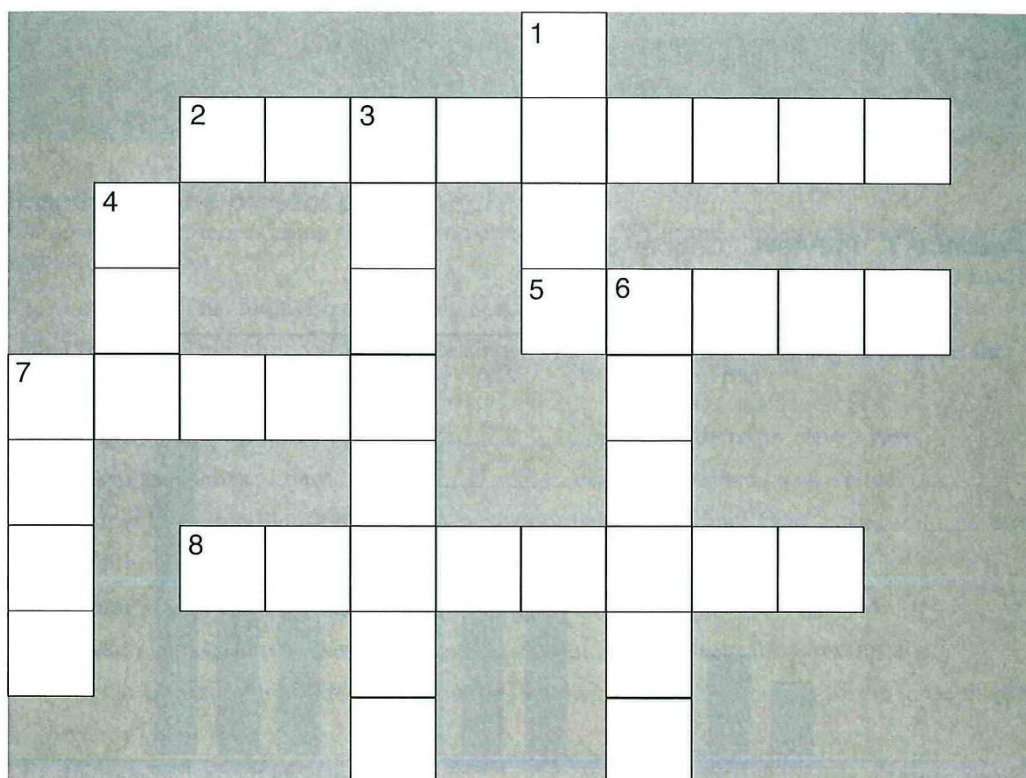
Underline the verbs. Decide which of the following phrases best describes the action of each sentence. Write the appropriate number.

1. actions occurring now or today
2. habitual / everyday actions
3. actions completed in the past (non-progressive)
4. one action in progress when another occurred

1. 2 I take the bus to school when it rains.
2. 4 I was riding the bus when I heard the news on my radio.
3. I am riding the bus because my friend is repairing my bike.
4. I rode the bus home yesterday because you forgot to pick me up.
5. Dennis was having coffee this morning when a bird crashed into his kitchen window.
6. Dennis had a big breakfast, but his wife didn't eat anything.
7. Dennis is having a big breakfast this morning.
8. Dennis generally has coffee with breakfast.
9. My mother and I celebrate our birthdays together because they are just a few days apart.
10. We were working when you called on our birthdays last week.
11. One year we celebrated our birthdays apart because my mom was away on business.

► **Practice 21. Chapter review.**

Complete the crossword puzzle. Use the clues under the puzzle. Write the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.



Across

2. Shhh. I'm *(listen)* _____ to the radio.
5. Good idea! I *(think)* _____ your suggestion is great.
7. What was that? I just *(hear)* _____ a loud noise.
8. I am *(think)* _____ about going home early today.

Down

1. We *(go)* _____ to Mexico last year.
3. I was in my room *(study)* _____ when you called.
4. I *(eat)* _____ lunch with friends yesterday.
6. This is fun. I'm *(have)* _____ a great time here.
7. I only *(have)* _____ a little money right now.

PRACTICE 14, p. 20

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. bit | 6. felt |
| 2. held | 7. stung |
| 3. meant | 8. swam |
| 4. blew | 9. paid |
| 5. quit | 10. caught |

PRACTICE 15, p. 21

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. spent | 7. sank |
| 2. led | 8. flew |
| 3. bet | 9. spun |
| 4. wept | 10. rang |
| 5. upset | 11. chose |
| 6. split | 12. froze |

PRACTICE 16, p. 21

- called
- were watching
- was humming
- met
- saw
- was cleaning
- was driving . . . got
- was blowing . . . were bending
- were playing . . . was pulling

PRACTICE 17, p. 22

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. 2, 1 | 5. 1, 2 |
| 2. 2, 1 | 6. 2, 1 |
| 3. 1, 2 | 7. 1, 2 |
| 4. 2, 1 | 8. 2, 1 |

PRACTICE 18, p. 23

- had
- were having
- stopped . . . fell . . . spilled
- served . . . came
- looked . . . was sleeping . . . was dreaming . . . was smiling
- was working . . . exploded
- caused . . . dropped

PRACTICE 19, p. 23

- 2 take . . . rains
- 4 was riding . . . heard
- 1 am riding . . . is repairing
- 3 rode . . . forgot
- 4 was having . . . crashed
- 3 had . . . didn't eat
- 1 is having
- 2 has
- 2 celebrate . . . are
- 4 were working . . . called
- 3 celebrated . . . was

PRACTICE 20, p. 24

- is always complaining
- is always talking
- live
- is forever leaving
- are always interrupting
- are always losing
- play
- are always studying

PRACTICE 21, p. 25

Across

- listening
- think
- heard
- thinking

Down

- went
- studying
- ate
- having
- have