

ESL worksheets: Past simple and continuous tense

A) Underline the correct tense.

As the stranger came/was coming to the station, a car stopped/was stopping behind him.

My grandma never watched/was never watching TV. But she read/was reading books.

When did you start/were you starting work?
I started/was starting at 6 o'clock.

He got up/was getting up and switched off/was switching off the light.

When I finished/was finishing my homework, I cooked/was cooking dinner.

While we listened/were listening to the news, the telephone rang/was ringing. Kate stood up/was standing up and answered/was answering it.

As I drove/was driving to work last Friday, a car crashed/was crashing in front of me. What did you do/were you doing when you saw/were seeing it?
I stepped/was stepping on the brakes.

Yesterday Carrol wrote/was writing letters from 10 to 11 and then from 5 to 7 again.

We arrived in Cannes at 2.30. The sun shone/was shining, people sunbathed/were sunbathing on the beach and big yachts sailed/were sailing near the harbour. We parked our car and went/were going to the beach.

B) Make questions first and then negatives.

Př. We heard a car outside the house.
a) Did you hear a car outside the house?
b) We didn't hear a car outside the house.

My neighbour lost her purse.

a)
b)

I rode slowly.

a)
b)

He was making a lot of noise at midnight.

a)
b)

They came early.

a)
b)

His sisters were sitting at the table.

a)
b)

We ran away.

a)
b)

The sun set at 7.45.

a)
b)

It was getting dark at 7.

a)
b)

I was talking to Tim the other day.

a)
b)

We were listening to the radio from 5 to 6.

a)
b)

See Key to exercises on the next page

Key to exercises

A

was coming - stopped
watched - read
did you start - started
got up - switched off
finished - cooked
were listening - rang - stood up
- answered
was driving - crashed - did you do
- saw - stepped
wrote
was shining - were sunbathing
- were sailing - went

B

Did your neighbour lose ... ?
My neighbour didn't lose
Did you ride slowly?
I didn't ride slowly.
Was he making ... ?
He wasn't making ...
Did they come early?
They didn't come early.
Were his sisters sitting ... ?
His sisters weren't sitting ...
Did you run away?
We didn't run away.
Did the sun set ... ?
It didn't set ...
Was it getting ... ?
It wasn't getting ...
Were you talking ... ?
I wasn't talking ...
Were you listening ... ?
We weren't listening ...