

Name: _____ Date: _____

Past Simple vs Past Continuous Tense Applied Practice

Choosing Your Weapon – Controlled Practice

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with either the **Past Continuous** or **Past Simple** form of the verb in parentheses. When you're deciding which one to use, ask yourself:

- *Is the verb active or stative? Active verbs can be used in either form. Stative verbs can only be used in Past Simple.*
- *Does the sentence give a precise moment or a time span in the past? Past Continuous verbs usually occur at a precise moment. Past Simple verbs usually occur within a time span.*
- *Does one action interrupt another? Usually, the verb in progress is a Past Continuous verb, and the verb that interrupts the action is a Past Simple verb.*

1. They just _____ (wash) the car yesterday, but then it _____ (rain), so the car _____ (get) muddy.

2. The twins _____ (play) nicely together yesterday when I came home.

3. What _____ you _____ (do) last week? When I _____ (call) you?

4. I'm sorry that I _____ (not/be) available last week. I _____ (work) on a difficult project, and I _____ (not/have) time to talk to anybody!

5. Zeke _____ (paint) graffiti on the governor's house last night when the police _____ (arrive) and _____ (arrest) him.

Editing – Practice

Find and correct the mistakes in the following sentences. If a sentence is correct, write “correct.”

1. Adam was watched two movies yesterday.

2. Corrie saw several falling stars last night.

3. Stella were listening to music at 8:00 last Tuesday evening.

4. Victor ran a marathon while his wife was had a baby.

5. Did Hank and Patricia bought their first house last month?

6. Christina and Max did paint the house last week.

7. Jasmine was writing a poem when her dog throwed up.

8. Who wrote this poem?

9. It was rained on Tuesday when I drove to work.

10. What was making it that noise?

Producing Language

Finish the following sentences:

1. I was washing the dishes when

2. I ... for hours last week.

3. I ... a lot when I was a child.

4. I was ... while the teacher was talking.

5. Last Tuesday night, as Phillip was cleaning up after dinner, his wife ...

6. Recently, I was talking to a friend about _____, and he said, "..."

7. I spoke to ... on the phone last week.

8. Yesterday, I ...

9. Randy was ... when the doorbell rang.

10. I didn't ... yesterday, but I plan to do it today.

Questions and Answers

Write the questions that were asked before the answers given.

1. Q. _____

A: She read a book about dinosaurs.

2. Q. _____

A: They were eating at a Mexican restaurant.

3. Q. _____

A: He visited Rome at least five times last year.

4. Q. _____

A: We went there on vacation every year when I was a child.

5. Q. _____

A: I was playing basketball.

Choosing Your Weapon - Controlled Practice

1. They just washed the car yesterday, but then it rained, so the car got muddy.
 2. The twins played nicely together yesterday when I came home.
 3. What were you doing last week when I called you?
 4. I'm sorry that I was not available last week. I was working on a difficult project, and I did not have time to talk to anybody.
 5. Zeke was painting graffiti on the governor's house last night when the police arrived and arrested him.
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Editing - Practice

1. Adam watched two movies yesterday. (remove "was")
 2. Correct.
 3. Stella was listening to music at 8:00 last Tuesday evening. (replace "were" with "was")
 4. Victor ran a marathon while his wife was having a baby. (replace "had" with "having")
 5. Did Hank and Patricia buy their first house last month? (replace "bought" with "buy")
 6. Christina and Max painted the house last week. (replace "did paint" with "painted")
 7. Jasmine was writing a poem when her dog threw up. (replace "threwed" with "threw")
 8. Correct.
 9. It was raining on Tuesday when I drove to work. (replace "rained" with "raining")
 10. What was making that noise? (remove "it")
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Producing Language

A range of possible correct answers may be given by students. Here are a few examples.

1. I was washing the dishes when Joan came home.
 2. I studied for hours last week.
 3. I played a lot when I was a child.
 4. I was listening while the teacher was talking.
 5. Last Tuesday night, as Philip was cleaning up after dinner, his wife made tea.
 6. Recently, I was talking to a friend about politics, and he said, "I disagree."
 7. I spoke to Felix on the phone last week.
 8. Yesterday, I went to the store.
 9. Randy was reading when the doorbell rang.
 10. I didn't clean the garage yesterday, but I plan to do it today.
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Questions and Answers

A range of possible correct answers may be given by students. Here are a few examples.

1. What was she reading?
2. Where were they eating?
3. Where did he go last year?
4. Why is Mexico so important to you?
5. What were you doing when dad got back?