

Simple past or past progressive? 6e_past_sim_prog_01

Theresa and Boris (to want) to play a trick on their friends.
While the boys and girls (to talk and play) in
the garden, Theresa (to go) into the house and (to
run) upstairs. She (to look) out of the window. Some of
her friends (to drink) lemonade, some (to
dance). Theresa (to smile) and
(to open) a packet of flour ('Mehl'). Then she (to give) a signal
to Boris. He (to turn on) the water for the sprinkler.
But why was there no water? Oh, no! Harry
(to stand) on the hose. He (to explain)
something to Beverly.

Simple past or past progressive? 6e_past_sim_prog_02

1. He (watch) TV when his friend arrived.
2. We (read)..... the Sunday papers when our friends called in.
3. The gardener (dig) a hole when he found an old coin.
4. The bus crashed because the driver (use) his mobile phone.
5. The aeroplane (fly) far too low when it hit a tree.
6. I (wash) my hands when the telephone (ring)
.....
7. She (sit) at the table when the children (come) home.
8. Mary was ironing and Martin (repair) his bike.
9. They all (have) breakfast when I entered the room.
10. My aunt (walk) in the park when I met her.
11. Peter (swim) in the sea when it (begin)
.....to rain.
12. What you (do) when I knocked at the door?
13. What she (cook) when the doorbell rang?
14. Where you (drive) when you (run) out of petrol?
15. Mary (wear) a new hat when the wind (blow)
..... it away.
16. She (play) tennis when she hurt her leg.

Simple past or past progressive? 6e_past_sim_prog_03

1. He (play) football when he (hear) about the accident.
2. The old lady (knit) a pullover when the lights (go out)
.....
3. She (talk) to her friends when her husband (fall)
..... over a tree.
4. They (read) a newspaper when the baby (begin)
..... to cry.
5. We (fly) over the mountains when the weather (begin)
..... to change.
6. John (work) on a new book when the manager (call)
..... in.
7. The burglar (climb) out of the window when the police (arrive)
.....
8. The car (be) empty but the engine (run)
.....
9. I (be) alone in the house because my father (work)
..... in the garden.
10. Who he (serve) when you saw him in the restaurant?
11. He (fall)..... down while he (repair) the roof of
his house.
12. I started a fire at 6 p.m. It still (burn) when Tom (come)
..... home from work.
13. She (write) a letter when suddenly the alarm-clock (go)
..... off.
14. Peter (play) his guitar when suddenly somebody (throw)
..... a bottle through the window.
15. I just (open) a letter when suddenly the wind (blow)
..... it out of my hands.
16. The burglar (open) the safe when he (hear)
..... footsteps.
17. What she (find) when she was looking for her passport?
18. When I (cross) the road I (slip)
..... on a banana skin.

PAST TENSE: simple or progressive?

6e_past_sim_prog_04

1. Yesterday I (go).....to Dusseldorf with my parents.
2. When Peter (arrive)..... the teacher (write)
..... something on the blackboard.
3. John (have) a bath when the telephone (ring)
He (get) out of the bath and (go) to the door.
4. On Sundays he always (wear) a suit and (carry)
an umbrella.
5. He (play) the guitar outside the house when suddenly someone
(open) a window and (throw) some water at him.
6. He suddenly (notice) that he (walk)
in the wrong direction.
7. The boys (smoke) a cigarette when they suddenly
(hear) their father's footsteps.
8. When I (hear) that knock I (go)
to the door and (open) it, but I (not see)
..... anybody because I (not wear) my glasses.
9. I (swim) in the lake when the accident (happen)
.....
10. Yesterday my father (polish) our car in the garage.
11. I (watch) a video every night last week.
12. My grandfather (play) tennis until he was 70.
13. He (cross) the motorway when a big lorry (hit)
..... him.
14. My sister just (write) an email when the lights
(go) out.
15. I (cut) my finger when I (cut)
a Frankfurter.
16. We just (have) something to eat when the fire (start).
17. When the burglar (see) the policeman he (run)
out of the house and (jump) behind our bushes.

PAST TENSE: simple or progressive?

6e_past_sim_prog_05

One night three men (sit) around a table in a nice pub. Suddenly the door (open) and a man with a black mask and a pistol (come in) He (want) all the money. But the clever landlord (take) a bottle and (smash) it over the man's head. He (drop) the pistol and (sink) to the floor. When the police (arrive) the man (be) still on the floor. The policemen (have) to carry him out. They (push) him into their car and (drive) to the police station.

Past: simple – progressive?

6e_past_sim_prog_06

1. When we (come) through the customs, we (see) hundreds of people who (wait) for friends and relatives.
2. I looked into the crowd and (try) to spot my sister.
3. At last I saw her. She (wear) a red sari and (stand) next to the exit.
4. When she saw me she (wave) and (call) my name.
5. All around us people (laugh) and (cry) with relief at seeing their relatives safe again.
6. 'We were very worried about you when we (see) the news on TV,' she said.
7. 'It was impossible to escape sooner,' I said. 'Yesterday I (drive) to the airport and (wait) for nine hours, but all the flights to England (to be cancelled) There were so many people there, and a lot of them (not get) a ticket at all. I was one of the lucky few.'

Simple past or past progressive? Put in the correct form. 6e_past_sim_prog_07

1. Nigel (listen) to a CD when Gary(arrive).
2. When Sara (get) there, Monica
(talk) to Nigel and Gary.
3. When Amber (meet) them, Sara and Monica
..... (look) at Gary's new DVD.
4. Mrs May (sit) in the restaurant when Mr May
..... (find) her.
5. At 4 o'clock Mrs and Mr May (go) home and
..... (have) tea.
6. While the boys (play) football, it
(start) to rain.
7. When Amber (come) into her room, her brother
..... (sleep) on her bed.
8. When Mrs Thatcher (arrive) late for school,
her pupils (wait) for her in the classroom.
9. When Mr May (look) into Nigel's room, Nigel
..... (not sleep). He (read) a comic.
10. While Sara and Amber (go) for a walk with Nigel,
Emma (try) to phone them.

Simple past or past progressive? 6e_past_sim_prog_08

Example: While the children were playing football, it started to rain.

1. When Mrs May (to arrive) late for school,
the children (to wait) for her in the classroom.
2. When Mrs Cameron (to come up),
David (play) with his toy cars.
He (not sleep).
3. Theresa (to tell) the doctor that she
..... (feel) very sick, while he (to examine) her.
4. What Lisa (to do), when her
friends (to arrive)?
5. While Charles (to eat) his third piece
of cake, Mr Johnson (to make) tea.
6. When Lisa and her friends (to arrive),
Nigel and Mr Johnson (to lie) under the
car. They (to want) to repair the exhaust pipe.
7. While Theresa and Nigel (to carry)
the chairs into the house, Boris (to go) to have
a cold drink. Theresa and Nigel (not to
be) happy about him.
8. Theresa (to have) a good idea,
while Nigel (to take) photos of her.