

Simple past or past progressive? 6e_past_sim_prog_01_L

Theresa and Boris **to wanted** to play a trick on their friends.

While the boys and girls **were talking and playing** in the garden, Theresa **went** into the house and **ran** upstairs. She **looked** out of the window. Some of her friends **were drinking** lemonade, some **were dancing**. Theresa **smiled** and **opened** a packet of flour ('Mehl'). Then she **gave** a signal to Boris. He **turned** on the water for the sprinkler. But why was there no water? Oh, no! Harry **was standing** on the hose. He **was explaining** something to Beverly.

Simple past or past progressive? 6e_past_sim_prog_02_L

1. He **was watching** TV, when his friend arrived.
2. We **were reading** the Sunday papers when our friends called in.
3. The gardener **was digging** a hole when he found an old coin.
4. The bus crashed because the driver **was using** his mobile phone.
5. The aeroplane **was flying** far too low when it hit a tree.
6. I **was washing** my hands when the telephone **rang**.
7. She **was sitting** at the table when the children **came** home.
8. Mary was ironing and Martin **was repairing** his bike.
9. They all **were having** breakfast when I entered the room.
10. My aunt **was walking** in the park when I met her.
11. Peter **was swimming** in the sea when it **began** to rain.
12. What **were** you **doing** when I knocked at the door?
13. What **was** she **cooking** when the doorbell rang?
14. Where **were** you **driving** when you **ran** out of petrol?
15. Mary **was wearing** a new hat when the wind **blew** it away.
16. She **was playing** tennis when she hurt her leg.

Simple past or past progressive? 6e_past_sim_prog_03_L

1. He **was playing** football when he **heard** about the accident.
2. The old lady **was knitting** a pullover when the lights **went out**.
3. She **was talking** to her friends when her husband **fell** over a tree.
4. They **were reading** a newspaper when the baby **began** to cry.
5. We **were flying** over the mountains when the weather **began** to change.
6. John **was working** on a new book when the manager **called** in.
7. The burglar **was climbing** out of the window when the police **arrived**.
8. The car **was** empty but the engine **was running**.
9. I **was** alone in the house because my father **was working** in the garden.
10. Who **was** he **serving** when you saw him in the restaurant?
11. He **fell** down while he **was repairing** the roof of his house.
12. I started a fire at 6 p.m. It **was** still **burning** when Tom **came** home from work.
13. She **was writing** a letter when suddenly the alarm-clock **went** off.
14. Peter **was playing** his guitar when suddenly somebody **threw** a bottle through the window.
15. I **was** just **opening** a letter when suddenly the wind **blew** it out of my hands.
16. The burglar **was opening** the safe when he **heard** footsteps.
17. What **did** she **find** when she was looking for her passport?
18. When I **was crossing** the road I **slipped** on a banana skin.

PAST TENSE: simple or progressive?

6e_past_sim_prog_04_L

1. Yesterday I **went** to Dusseldorf with my parents.
2. When Peter **arrived** the teacher **was writing** something on the blackboard.
3. John **was having** a bath when the telephone **rang**. He **got** out of the bath and **went** to the door.
4. On Sundays he always **wears** a suit and **carries** an umbrella.
5. He **was playing** the guitar outside the house when suddenly someone **opened** a window and **threw** some water at him.
6. He suddenly **noticed** that he **was walk** in the wrong direction.
7. The boys **were smoking** a cigarette when they suddenly **heard** their father's footsteps.
8. When I **heard** that knock I **went** to the door and **opened** it, but I **didn't see** anybody because I **wasn't wearing** my glasses.
9. I **was swimming** in the lake when the accident **happened**.
10. Yesterday my father **polished** our car in the garage.
11. I **watched** a video every night last week.
12. My grandfather **played** tennis until he was 70.
13. He **was crossing** the motorway when a big lorry **hit** him.
14. My sister **was just writing** an email when the lights **went** out.
15. I **cut** my finger when I **was cutting** a Frankfurter.
16. We **were just having** something to eat when the fire **started**.
17. When the burglar **saw** the policeman he **ran** out of the house and **jumped** behind our bushes.

PAST TENSE: simple or progressive?

6e_past_sim_prog_05_L

One night three men **were sitting** around a table in a nice pub. Suddenly the door **opened** and a man with a black mask and a pistol **came** in. He **wanted** all the money. But the clever landlord **took** a bottle and **smashed** it over the man's head. He **dropped** the pistol and **sank** to the floor. When the police **arrived** the man **was** still on the floor. The policemen **had** to carry him out. They **pushed** him into their car and **drove** to the police station.

Past: simple – progressive?

6e_past_sim_prog_06_L

1. When we **came** through the customs, we **saw** hundreds of people who **were waiting** for friends and relatives.
2. I looked into the crowd and **tried** to spot my sister.
3. At last I saw her. She **was wearing** a red blouse and **was standing** next to the exit.
4. When she saw me she **waved** and **called** my name.
5. All around us people **were laughing** and **crying** with relief at seeing their relatives safe again.
6. 'We were very worried about you when we **saw** the news on TV,' she said.
7. 'It was impossible to escape sooner,' I said. 'Yesterday I **drove** to the airport and **waited** for nine hours, but all the flights to England **were cancelled**. There were so many people there, and a lot of them **didn't 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_L

1. Nigel **was listening** to a CD when Gary **arrived**.
2. When Sara **got** there, Monica **was talking** to Nigel and Gary.
3. When Amber **met** them, Sara and Monica **were looking** at Gary's new DVD.
4. Mrs May **was sitting** in the restaurant when Mr May **found** her.
5. At 4 o'clock Mrs and Mr May **went** home and **had** tea.
6. While the boys **were playing** football, it **started** to rain.
7. When Amber **came** into her room, her brother **was sleeping** on her bed.
8. When Mrs Thatcher **arrived** late for school, her pupils **were waiting** for her in the classroom.
9. When Mr May **looked** into Nigel's room, Nigel **wasn't sleeping**. He **was reading** a comic.
10. While Sara and Amber **went** for a walk with Nigel, Emma **was trying** to phone them.

Simple past or past progressive? 06e_sp_pp_08_L

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

1. When Mrs May **arrived** late for school, the children **were waiting** for her in the classroom.
2. When Mrs Cameron **came up**, David **was playing** with his toy cars. He **was not sleeping**.
3. Theresa **told** the doctor that she **was feeling** very sick, while he **was examining** her.
4. What **was** Lisa **doing**, when her friends **arrived**?
5. While Charles **was eating** his third piece of cake, Mr Johnson **was making** tea.
6. When Lisa and her friends **arrived**, Nigel and Mr Johnson **were lying** under the car. They **wanted** to repair the exhaust pipe.
7. While Theresa and Nigel **were carrying** the chairs into the house, Boris **went** to have a cold drink. Theresa and Nigel **were not** happy about him.
8. Theresa **had** a good idea, while Nigel **was taking** photos of her.