EXERCISES

Past Simple or Continuous

1 Write the verb in the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

1 I _____ (wash) the dishes when the smoke alarm went off.

2 My flight _____ (land) while I was sleeping.

3 We _____ (walk) to the car when it started to hail.

4 She _____ (drop) her coffee while she was getting off the train.

5 When the boss came in, everyone _____ (pretend) to work.

6 He _____ (lose) his wallet while he was shopping at the mall.

7 I _____ (not / pay) attention when the manager explained the new rules.

8 Where _____ you _____ (live) when you met your wife?

9 My phone _____ (ring) three times while I was in the meeting.

10 When I opened the door, two men _____ (stand) outside.

2 Write both verbs in the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

1 While I _____ (cook), my husband _____ (set) the table.

2 I _____ (get) up, _____ (take) a shower and left for work.

3 The sun _____ (shine) and people _____ (sit) outside the cafes.

4 When the alarm went off, I _____ (jump) out of bed and _____ (run) to the kitchen.

5 While the kids _____ (sleep), we _____ (watch) a movie.

6 She _____ (talk) on the phone while she _____ (drive). That's dangerous.

7 When my parents _____ (arrive), we _____ (go) straight to the restaurant.

8 It was a crazy morning. Phones _____ (ring) and everyone _____ (rush) around.

9 I _____ (hear) a strange noise, so I _____ (call) the police.

Past Simple or Continuous

3 Circle the correct form.

1 I _____ my ex while I was waiting at the dentist. ran into / was running into / run into

2 What _____ when I called you? You sounded busy.
did you do / were you doing / you were doing

3 We _____ dinner when the power went out. had / were having / have had

4 She _____ her ankle while she was running. was hurting / hurt / hurts

5 _____ I was looking for parking, my wife bought the tickets. While / During / Then

6 The car broke down _____ we were driving to Boston. during / while / then

7 Last Saturday I _____ the garage, washed the car and mowed the lawn.
was cleaning / cleaned / had cleaning

8 When I got to the office, my coworkers _____ about the news. Everyone knew before me.
talked / were talking / talk

9 I _____ the vacuum when you called, so I didn't hear the phone. was running / ran / run

4 Choose the correct sentence.

1
a) I was reading when the lights went out.
b) I read when the lights were going out.
c) I was read when the lights went out.

2
a) While I cooked dinner, the doorbell was ringing.
b) While I was cooking dinner, the doorbell rang.
c) While I was cooking dinner, the doorbell was ring.

3
a) I knew him when we were kids.
b) I was knowing him when we were kids.
c) I was know him when we were kids.

4
a) What did you doing at the airport so late?
b) What you were doing at the airport so late?
c) What were you doing at the airport so late?

Past Simple or Continuous

4 Choose the correct sentence.

5
a)
We were driving home when we saw the accident.
b)
We drove home when we were seeing the accident.
c)
We were drive home when we saw the accident.

6
a) He fell asleep while he watching TV.
b) He fell asleep while he was watching TV.
c)
He was fall asleep while he was watching TV.

5 Put the words in order.

1 boss / was / in / sitting / traffic / I / my / when / called / .

2 bike / she / while / her / was / riding / she / broke / arm / her / .

3 going / you / where / police / you / the / stopped / when / were / ?

4 I / alarm / went / the / when / off / up / got / .

5 while / was / online / cooking / wife / shopping / was / I / my / .

6 boss / was / old / my / I / while / gas / getting / saw / I / .

7 client / you / were / when / working / arrived / the / ?

8 scored / watching / I / they / when / wasn't / .

Past Simple or Continuous

6 **Find and correct the mistake in each sentence.**

1 I was cutting the grass when it start to rain.

2 While I was work, someone stole my bike.

3 We was having lunch when the fire alarm went off.

4 When I arrived, my sister was cook dinner.

5 He fell while he were climbing the stairs.

6 Was they sleeping when you got home?

7 While she was jogging, she find a wallet on the path.

8 Did you sleeping when I texted you last night?

9 I seen an accident while I was driving to work.

YOUR LIFE

7 **Write about a surprising moment from your life.**

I WAS ... WHEN ...

WHILE I WAS ..., ...