

Simple Past vs Past Continuous

A2 Elementary · Lesson 2 · Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 56

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? (8 points)

Read each sentence. Circle **Simple Past** or **Past Continuous**.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. She was crying when I walked into the room. | Simple Past / Past Continuous |
| 2. He fell asleep on the sofa after dinner. | Simple Past / Past Continuous |
| 3. The children were playing in the garden all morning. | Simple Past / Past Continuous |
| 4. I laughed when I heard the joke. | Simple Past / Past Continuous |
| 5. The sun was shining when we arrived at the beach. | Simple Past / Past Continuous |
| 6. She waited for an hour before the bus came. | Simple Past / Past Continuous |
| 7. They were talking quietly when the teacher entered. | Simple Past / Past Continuous |
| 8. He slept through the whole film. | Simple Past / Past Continuous |

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the correct verb form.

1. She ____ when I called her name.
cried / was crying / were crying
2. He ____ off his bike while he was going downhill.
fell / was falling / falled
3. The children ____ outside while it started to rain.
played / were playing / was playing
4. We all ____ when she told us what happened.
were laughing / laughed / was laughing
5. The sun ____ when we left the house this morning.
shone / was shining / were shining
6. I ____ outside the cinema for twenty minutes.
waited / was waiting / were waiting
7. While they ____ on the phone, someone knocked at the door.
talked / were talking / was talking
8. He ____ so deeply that he missed his alarm.

was sleeping / slept / sleeps

Exercise 3 · Matching (8 points)

Match each sentence (1–8) to its meaning (a–h). Write the letter in the box.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. She was crying when I came in. | [____] |
| 2. He fell off his chair and everyone laughed. | [____] |
| 3. The children were playing all afternoon. | [____] |
| 4. While they were talking, the phone rang. | [____] |
| 5. The sun was shining when we arrived. | [____] |
| 6. She waited at the door and knocked twice. | [____] |
| 7. I laughed when I saw his expression. | [____] |
| 8. He slept through the whole storm. | [____] |

- h. A state that lasted for the entire duration of another event.
- c. An activity that continued without interruption for a long time.
- b. Two completed actions that happened one immediately after the other.
- e. The weather was already happening as background when we got there.
- a. An ongoing emotional state was still happening when something else occurred.
- f. Two quick completed actions in sequence.
- d. A conversation in progress was interrupted by a sudden event.
- g. A short completed reaction to something that happened.

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill (8 points)

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. She _____ when I found her in the hallway. (*cry*)
2. He _____ asleep before the film even started. (*fall*)
3. The children _____ outside when it began to snow. (*play*)
4. We _____ so much that our sides hurt. (*laugh*)
5. The sun _____ brightly while we had our picnic. (*shine*)
6. I _____ at the corner for nearly half an hour. (*wait*)
7. They _____ in the kitchen when I arrived home. (*talk*)
8. She _____ for ten hours and woke up feeling much better. (*sleep*)

Exercise 5 · Word Order (8 points)

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

1. She / was / crying / when / I / walked / in

2. He / fell / asleep / on / the / sofa

3. The / children / were / playing / all / morning

4. I / laughed / when / I / heard / the / joke

5. The / sun / was / shining / when / we / arrived

6. She / waited / for / an / hour / before / the / bus / came

7. While / they / were / talking / someone / knocked

8. He / slept / through / the / whole / film

Exercise 6 · Word Sort (8 points)

Write each sentence in the correct column.

The sun ____ beautifully as we walked along the coast. • I ____ when I heard the punchline. • She ____ patiently and did not complain once. • He ____ so well that nothing woke him up. • They ____ quietly in the corner all evening. • She ____ softly when I entered the room. • The children ____ happily while their parents watched. • He ____ over and hurt his knee on the path.

Action in progress	Completed action

Exercise 7 · Complete the Conversation (8 points)

Choose the correct word from the brackets to complete each gap.

Mia: Why (were / did / was) you (crying / cried / cry) when I came in this morning?

Jake: I (was watching / watched / watch) a sad film and I just (started / was starting / start) to cry at the end.

Mia: Oh! (Were / Did / Was) you (sleeping / slept / sleep) when I called last night?

Jake: No, I (was waiting / waited / wait) for my friend. We (were talking / talked / talk) on the phone until midnight.

Mia: And (was / did / were) the sun (shining / shone / shine) this morning? I (fell / was falling / fall) back asleep and missed it!

Jake: Yes! It (was shining / shone / shine) all morning. The children next door (were playing / played / play) outside for hours.

TEACHER ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Simple Past vs Past Continuous · A2 Lesson 2

This answer key is for teacher use only.

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? — Answers

1. She was crying when I walked into the room. → **PC**
2. He fell asleep on the sofa after dinner. → **SP**
3. The children were playing in the garden all morning. → **PC**
4. I laughed when I heard the joke. → **SP**
5. The sun was shining when we arrived at the beach. → **PC**
6. She waited for an hour before the bus came. → **SP**
7. They were talking quietly when the teacher entered. → **PC**
8. He slept through the whole film. → **SP**

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice — Answers

1. **was crying**
2. **fell**
3. **were playing**
4. **laughed**
5. **was shining**
6. **waited**
7. **were talking**
8. **was sleeping**

Exercise 3 · Matching — Answers

1. She was crying when I came in. → **a**
2. He fell off his chair and everyone laughed. → **b**
3. The children were playing all afternoon. → **c**
4. While they were talking, the phone rang. → **d**
5. The sun was shining when we arrived. → **e**
6. She waited at the door and knocked twice. → **f**
7. I laughed when I saw his expression. → **g**
8. He slept through the whole storm. → **h**

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill — Answers

1. She **was crying** when I found her in the hallway.
2. He **fell** asleep before the film even started.
3. The children **were playing** outside when it began to snow.
4. We **laughed** so much that our sides hurt.
5. The sun **was shining** brightly while we had our picnic.
6. I **waited** at the corner for nearly half an hour.
7. They **were talking** in the kitchen when I arrived home.
8. She **slept** for ten hours and woke up feeling much better.

Exercise 5 · Word Order — Answers

1. She was crying when I walked in .
2. He fell asleep on the sofa .
3. The children were playing all morning .
4. I laughed when I heard the joke .
5. The sun was shining when we arrived .
6. She waited for an hour before the bus came .
7. While they were talking someone knocked .
8. He slept through the whole film .

Exercise 6 · Word Sort — Answers

Action in progress	Completed action
She ___ softly when I entered the room.	He ___ over and hurt his knee on the path.
The children ___ happily while their parents watched.	I ___ when I heard the punchline.
The sun ___ beautifully as we walked along the coast.	She ___ patiently and did not complain once.
They ___ quietly in the corner all evening.	He ___ so well that nothing woke him up.

Exercise 7 · Conversation — Answers

Mia: Why **were** you **crying** when I came in this morning?

Jake: I **was watching** a sad film and I just **started** to cry at the end.

Mia: Oh! **Were** you **sleeping** when I called last night?

Jake: No, I **was waiting** for my friend. We **were talking** on the phone until midnight.

Mia: And **was** the sun **shining** this morning? I **fell** back asleep and missed it!

Jake: Yes! It **was shining** all morning. The children next door **were playing** outside for hours.