

Simple Past vs Past Continuous

A2 Elementary · Lesson 4 · Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 56

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? (8 points)

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

1. The dog was barking when the postman arrived. Simple Past / Past Continuous

2. She carried the boxes upstairs and put them away. Simple Past / Past Continuous

3. I was drawing at my desk when the phone rang. Simple Past / Past Continuous

4. He drank a glass of water and sat down. Simple Past / Past Continuous

5. They were shopping when the storm started. Simple Past / Past Continuous

6. She helped her neighbour fix the fence. Simple Past / Past Continuous

7. The choir were singing when we walked into the hall. Simple Past / Past Continuous

8. We watched the match from beginning to end. Simple Past / Past Continuous

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the correct verb form.

1. The dog ____ loudly while we tried to sleep.

barked / was barking / were barking

2. She ____ the heavy bags all the way up the hill.

carried / was carrying / was carry

3. I ____ a picture of the view when my pen ran out.

drew / was drawing / were drawing

4. He ____ his coffee slowly and read the newspaper.

drank / was drinking / were drinking

5. While they ____ for food, they bumped into an old friend.

shopped / were shopping / was shopping

6. She ____ her sister move into the new flat last weekend.

helped / was helping / were helping

7. The band ____ when the power suddenly cut out.

sang / were singing / was singing

8. We ____ the whole series in one weekend.

were watching / watched / watch

Exercise 3 · Matching (8 points)

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

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. The dog was barking when the guests arrived. | [____] |
| 2. She carried the boxes up and put them down. | [____] |
| 3. I was drawing when the phone rang. | [____] |
| 4. He drank his tea and left quickly. | [____] |
| 5. While they were shopping, the weather changed. | [____] |
| 6. She helped her neighbour and then went home. | [____] |
| 7. The choir was singing when we entered. | [____] |
| 8. We watched the whole match without moving. | [____] |

- h. A completed activity that lasted from start to finish.
e. A background activity was in progress when the weather turned.
a. An ongoing noise was already happening when something else occurred.
c. A creative activity in progress was interrupted by a sudden sound.
b. Two completed physical actions that happened in sequence.
g. A performance was already under way when we arrived.
d. Two brief completed actions that happened one after the other.
f. A completed helpful action followed immediately by another action.

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill (8 points)

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

1. The dog _____ at the gate when I got home. (*bark*)
2. She _____ the shopping inside before it rained. (*carry*)
3. I _____ a map when the teacher asked me a question. (*draw*)
4. He _____ a cup of tea and then went back to work. (*drink*)
5. They _____ when they heard the news. (*shop*)
6. She _____ the lost tourists find the right road. (*help*)
7. The band _____ our favourite song when we walked in. (*sing*)
8. We _____ the sunset from the top of the hill. (*watch*)

Exercise 5 · Word Order (8 points)

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

1. The / dog / was / barking / when / I / arrived

2. She / carried / the / boxes / upstairs / and / put / them / away

3. I / was / drawing / when / the / phone / rang

4. He / drank / his / coffee / and / read / the / newspaper

5. While / they / were / shopping / it / started / to / rain

6. She / helped / her / neighbour / and / went / home

7. The / choir / were / singing / when / we / walked / in

8. We / watched / the / whole / match / from / beginning / to / end

Exercise 6 · Word Sort (8 points)

Write each sentence in the correct column.

They ____ for hours when they finally found what they needed. • I ____ a portrait of my grandmother all morning. • She ____ the heavy suitcase down the stairs carefully. • He ____ his coffee too fast and burned his tongue. • The dog ____ all night and kept everyone awake. • We ____ the whole documentary without a break. • She ____ her colleague finish the report before she left. • The children ____ together on the stage when the lights failed.

Action in progress	Completed action

Exercise 7 · Complete the Conversation (8 points)

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

Dan: What (were / did / was) you (doing / did / done) when I knocked this morning?

Petra: I (was watching / watched / watch) a film. The dog (was barking / barked / bark) so loudly I nearly missed your knock!

Dan: (Were / Was / Did) you (shopping / shopped / shop) yesterday? I (saw / was seeing / see) your car near the market.

Petra: Yes! While I (was shopping / shopped / shop), I (bumped / was bumping / bump) into your sister.

Dan: Really? What (was / were / did) she (doing / did / done)?

Petra: She (was carrying / carried / carry) a huge bag and (was singing / sang / sing) to herself. She (helped / was helping / help) me find the right street too!

TEACHER ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Simple Past vs Past Continuous · A2 Lesson 4

This answer key is for teacher use only.

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? — Answers

1. The dog was barking when the postman arrived. → **PC**
2. She carried the boxes upstairs and put them away. → **SP**
3. I was drawing at my desk when the phone rang. → **PC**
4. He drank a glass of water and sat down. → **SP**
5. They were shopping when the storm started. → **PC**
6. She helped her neighbour fix the fence. → **SP**
7. The choir were singing when we walked into the hall. → **PC**
8. We watched the match from beginning to end. → **SP**

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice — Answers

1. **was barking**
2. **carried**
3. **was drawing**
4. **drank**
5. **were shopping**
6. **helped**
7. **were singing**
8. **watched**

Exercise 3 · Matching — Answers

1. The dog was barking when the guests arrived. → **a**
2. She carried the boxes up and put them down. → **b**
3. I was drawing when the phone rang. → **c**
4. He drank his tea and left quickly. → **d**
5. While they were shopping, the weather changed. → **e**
6. She helped her neighbour and then went home. → **f**
7. The choir was singing when we entered. → **g**
8. We watched the whole match without moving. → **h**

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill — Answers

1. The dog **was barking** at the gate when I got home.
2. She **carried** the shopping inside before it rained.
3. I **was drawing** a map when the teacher asked me a question.
4. He **drank** a cup of tea and then went back to work.
5. They **were shopping** when they heard the news.
6. She **helped** the lost tourists find the right road.
7. The band **were singing** our favourite song when we walked in.
8. We **watched** the sunset from the top of the hill.

Exercise 5 · Word Order — Answers

1. The dog **was barking** when I arrived .
2. She **carried the boxes upstairs and put them away** .
3. I **was drawing** when the phone rang .
4. He **drank his coffee and read the newspaper** .
5. **While they were shopping it started to rain** .
6. She **helped her neighbour and went home** .
7. The choir **were singing** when we walked in .
8. We **watched the whole match from beginning to end** .

Exercise 6 · Word Sort — Answers

Action in progress	Completed action
The dog ___ all night and kept everyone awake.	She ___ the heavy suitcase down the stairs carefully.
I ___ a portrait of my grandmother all morning.	He ___ his coffee too fast and burned his tongue.
They ___ for hours when they finally found what they needed.	She ___ her colleague finish the report before she left.
The children ___ together on the stage when the lights failed.	We ___ the whole documentary without a break.

Exercise 7 · Conversation — Answers

Dan: What **were** you **doing** when I knocked this morning?

Petra: I **was watching** a film. The dog **was barking** so loudly I nearly missed your knock!

Dan: **Were** you **shopping** yesterday? I **saw** your car near the market.

Petra: Yes! While I **was shopping**, I **bumped** into your sister.

Dan: Really? What **was** she **doing**?

Petra: She **was carrying** a huge bag and **was singing** to herself. She **helped** me find the right street too!