

Simple Past vs Past Continuous

B1 Intermediate · Lesson 3 · Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 56

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? (8 points)

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

1. The researcher was monitoring the data feed when the anomaly appeared.

Simple Past / Past Continuous

2. She demonstrated the technique to the entire cohort last Tuesday.

Simple Past / Past Continuous

3. While the negotiators were pursuing a settlement, talks broke down.

Simple Past / Past Continuous

4. The structure collapsed without warning during the inspection.

Simple Past / Past Continuous

5. He was evaluating the proposals when the shortlist was suddenly reduced.

Simple Past / Past Continuous

6. A new pattern emerged from the data after the third round of analysis.

Simple Past / Past Continuous

7. The students were interacting with the simulation when the software froze.

Simple Past / Past Continuous

8. She justified her decision with a detailed cost-benefit analysis.

Simple Past / Past Continuous

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the correct verb form.

1. The sensor ____ the atmospheric readings when it malfunctioned.

was monitoring / monitored / were monitoring

2. The trainer ____ the correct procedure to the group step by step.

demonstrated / was demonstrating / were demonstrating

3. A clearer picture ____ as the investigation progressed.

emerged / was emerging / were emerging

4. While the panel ____ the bids, two applicants withdrew.

was evaluating / evaluated / were evaluating

5. The participants ____ with each other throughout the session.

were interacting / interacted / was interacting

6. She ____ her recommendation clearly before the committee voted.

justified / was justifying / were justifying

7. The team ____ every lead when a key witness came forward.

was pursuing / pursued / were pursuing

8. Two supporting walls ____ simultaneously during the demolition.

collapsed / were collapsing / was collapsing

Exercise 3 · Matching (8 points)

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

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. The monitor was recording the readings when the fault occurred. | [____] |
| 2. She demonstrated the method and answered questions afterwards. | [____] |
| 3. A new theory emerged from years of accumulated research. | [____] |
| 4. While the panel was evaluating the bids, the deadline was extended. | [____] |
| 5. The participants were interacting while the facilitator observed. | [____] |
| 6. She justified her position and then resigned. | [____] |
| 7. They were pursuing the inquiry when new evidence came to light. | [____] |
| 8. The building collapsed and emergency services arrived within minutes. | [____] |

- e. Two simultaneous ongoing activities — group activity and individual observation.
d. An ongoing review was still in progress when an external decision was made.
f. A completed act of explanation immediately followed by a completed decision.
c. A completed event that was the result of a long prior process.
g. An ongoing investigation was still active when something unexpected emerged.
b. A completed instructional action followed by a further completed activity.
h. A sudden completed event immediately followed by a rapid response.
a. An automated process in progress was interrupted by a sudden technical problem.

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill (8 points)

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

1. The device _____ the patient's vital signs throughout the procedure.
(*monitor*)
2. The instructor _____ the assembly process twice before allowing students to try. (*demonstrate*)
3. A pattern _____ only after the researchers combined all three datasets.
(*emerge*)
4. While the committee _____ the applications, one candidate withdrew.
(*evaluate*)

5. The delegates _____ informally when the session was called back to order.
(interact)
6. She _____ the additional expenditure by referencing the projected returns.
(justify)
7. The investigation team _____ several leads simultaneously when the breakthrough came. (pursue)
8. Part of the ceiling _____ during the routine maintenance inspection.
(collapse)

Exercise 5 • Word Order (8 points)

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

1. The / researcher / was / monitoring / the / feed / when / the / anomaly / appeared

2. She / demonstrated / the / technique / to / the / cohort / last / Tuesday

3. While / they / were / pursuing / a / settlement / talks / broke / down

4. The / structure / collapsed / without / warning / during / the / inspection

5. He / was / evaluating / the / proposals / when / the / shortlist / was / reduced

6. A / new / pattern / emerged / after / the / third / round / of / analysis

7. The / students / were / interacting / when / the / software / froze

8. She / justified / her / decision / with / a / detailed / analysis

Exercise 6 • Word Sort (8 points)

Write each sentence in the correct column.

The consultant ____ the new approach at the regional conference. • Participants ____ with the interface while facilitators took notes. • She ____ her methodology before the results were challenged. • They ____ every avenue when a new piece of evidence changed everything. • The panel ____ all submissions when a late application arrived. • A section of the wall ____ during the renovation. • A consensus ____ gradually over the course of the three-day summit. • The device ____ the participants' responses throughout the trial.

Action in progress	Completed action

Exercise 7 · Complete the Conversation (8 points)

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

Dr Ellis: What (were you doing / did you do / you were doing) when the monitoring system (triggered / was triggering / trigger) the alert?

Dr Owusu: I (was evaluating / evaluated / evaluate) the overnight data while my colleague (was monitoring / monitored / monitor) the secondary samples.

Dr Ellis: (Had / Did / Was) a pattern (emerge / emerged / emerging) before the alert came?

Dr Owusu: Not clearly. We (were pursuing / pursued / pursue) several unusual signals when the system (detected / was detecting / detect) the main fault.

Dr Ellis: And (did / were / was) the team (interact / interacted / interacting) with the backup protocol immediately?

Dr Owusu: Yes. Dr Pires (justified / was justifying / justify) the emergency procedure and (demonstrated / was demonstrating / demonstrate) it to the team on the spot.

TEACHER ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Simple Past vs Past Continuous · B1 Lesson 3

This answer key is for teacher use only.

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? — Answers

1. The researcher was monitoring the data feed when the anomaly appeared. → **PC**
2. She demonstrated the technique to the entire cohort last Tuesday. → **SP**
3. While the negotiators were pursuing a settlement, talks broke down. → **PC**
4. The structure collapsed without warning during the inspection. → **SP**
5. He was evaluating the proposals when the shortlist was suddenly reduced. → **PC**
6. A new pattern emerged from the data after the third round of analysis. → **SP**
7. The students were interacting with the simulation when the software froze. → **PC**
8. She justified her decision with a detailed cost-benefit analysis. → **SP**

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice — Answers

1. **was monitoring**
2. **demonstrated**
3. **emerged**
4. **were evaluating**
5. **were interacting**
6. **justified**
7. **was pursuing**
8. **collapsed**

Exercise 3 · Matching — Answers

1. The monitor was recording the readings when the fault occurred. → **a**
2. She demonstrated the method and answered questions afterwards. → **b**
3. A new theory emerged from years of accumulated research. → **c**
4. While the panel was evaluating the bids, the deadline was extended. → **d**
5. The participants were interacting while the facilitator observed. → **e**
6. She justified her position and then resigned. → **f**
7. They were pursuing the inquiry when new evidence came to light. → **g**
8. The building collapsed and emergency services arrived within minutes. → **h**

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill — Answers

1. The device **was monitoring** the patient's vital signs throughout the procedure.
2. The instructor **demonstrated** the assembly process twice before allowing students to try.
3. A pattern **emerged** only after the researchers combined all three datasets.
4. While the committee **was evaluating** the applications, one candidate withdrew.
5. The delegates **were interacting** informally when the session was called back to order.
6. She **justified** the additional expenditure by referencing the projected returns.
7. The investigation team **was pursuing** several leads simultaneously when the breakthrough came.
8. Part of the ceiling **collapsed** during the routine maintenance inspection.

Exercise 5 · Word Order — Answers

1. **The researcher was monitoring the feed when the anomaly appeared .**
2. **She demonstrated the technique to the cohort last Tuesday .**
3. **While they were pursuing a settlement talks broke down .**
4. **The structure collapsed without warning during the inspection .**
5. **He was evaluating the proposals when the shortlist was reduced .**
6. **A new pattern emerged after the third round of analysis .**
7. **The students were interacting when the software froze .**
8. **She justified her decision with a detailed analysis .**

Exercise 6 · Word Sort — Answers

Action in progress	Completed action
The device ____ the participants' responses throughout the trial.	The consultant ____ the new approach at the regional conference.
The panel ____ all submissions when a late application arrived.	A consensus ____ gradually over the course of the three-day summit.
Participants ____ with the interface while facilitators took notes.	She ____ her methodology before the results were challenged.
They ____ every avenue when a new piece of evidence changed everything.	A section of the wall ____ during the renovation.

Exercise 7 · Conversation — Answers

Dr Ellis: What **were you doing** when the monitoring system **triggered** the alert?

Dr Owusu: I **was evaluating** the overnight data while my colleague **was monitoring** the secondary samples.

Dr Ellis: **Did** a pattern **emerge** before the alert came?

Dr Owusu: Not clearly. We **were pursuing** several unusual signals when the system **detected** the main fault.

Dr Ellis: And **did** the team **interact** with the backup protocol immediately?

Dr Owusu: Yes. Dr Pires **justified** the emergency procedure and **demonstrated** it to the team on the spot.