

Simple Past vs Past Continuous

B1 Intermediate · 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 signal was transmitting data when the interference began. Simple Past / Past Continuous

2. The agency regulated the sector strictly throughout the previous decade. Simple Past / Past Continuous

3. While the volunteers were distributing supplies, a second convoy arrived. Simple Past / Past Continuous

4. The device generated enough power to run the entire facility. Simple Past / Past Continuous

5. Scientists were accumulating evidence for years before publishing. Simple Past / Past Continuous

6. The archivist classified the documents by date and origin. Simple Past / Past Continuous

7. His condition was deteriorating rapidly when the specialist intervened. Simple Past / Past Continuous

8. The analyst interpreted the results and presented her conclusions. Simple Past / Past Continuous

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the correct verb form.

1. The antenna ____ live data to the satellite when it was struck by lightning.
was transmitting / transmitted / were transmitting

2. The authority ____ the industry through a series of stringent controls.
regulated / was regulating / were regulating

3. While they ____ the aid packages, reports of further shortages arrived.
distributed / were distributing / was distributing

4. The turbines ____ sufficient energy to power the entire grid.
generated / were generating / was generating

5. Researchers ____ data from multiple sources over a five-year period.

were accumulating / accumulated / was accumulating

6. The technician ____ the files according to the new archiving system.

classified / was classifying / were classifying

7. The infrastructure ____ visibly while the funding dispute continued.

was deteriorating / deteriorated / were deteriorating

8. She ____ the statistical output and identified three key trends.

interpreted / was interpreting / were interpreting

Exercise 3 · Matching (8 points)

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

1. The transmitter was sending the signal when the storm hit. [____]

2. The body regulated the market and published its annual report. [____]

3. While they were distributing the resources, a dispute broke out. [____]

4. The plant generated record levels of output last quarter. [____]

5. Scientists were accumulating evidence while the debate continued. [____]

6. The clerk classified the records and filed them systematically. [____]

7. The situation was deteriorating when the intervention occurred. [____]

8. She interpreted the findings and issued a formal recommendation. [____]

b. A completed regulatory action followed by a completed publication.

a. An ongoing broadcast was interrupted by an external weather event.

d. A completed achievement that occurred during a specific finished period.

c. An ongoing distribution activity was interrupted by an unexpected conflict.

f. A completed sorting task immediately followed by a completed filing action.

h. A completed analytical action followed directly by a completed formal output.

e. An ongoing research process ran simultaneously with an ongoing public discussion.

g. A worsening ongoing situation was still active when something changed it.

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill (8 points)

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

1. The device _____ real-time readings when the connection was lost.
(transmit)

2. The authority _____ pricing across the sector for the entire period. (regulate)

3. While the team _____ the questionnaires, the session overran by an hour.
(distribute)

4. The new system _____ far more data than the team had anticipated.
(generate)

5. Researchers _____ evidence across multiple trials when funding was withdrawn. (*accumulate*)
6. She _____ the specimens into four distinct categories. (*classify*)
7. The patient's condition _____ when the consultant finally arrived. (*deteriorate*)
8. He _____ the clause differently and submitted a formal objection. (*interpret*)

Exercise 5 · Word Order (8 points)

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

1. The / signal / was / transmitting / data / when / the / interference / began

2. The / agency / regulated / the / sector / throughout / the / previous / decade

3. While / the / volunteers / were / distributing / supplies / a / convoy / arrived

4. The / device / generated / enough / power / for / the / entire / facility

5. Scientists / were / accumulating / evidence / for / years / before / publishing

6. The / archivist / classified / the / documents / by / date / and / origin

7. His / condition / was / deteriorating / when / the / specialist / intervened

8. She / interpreted / the / results / and / presented / her / conclusions

Exercise 6 · Word Sort (8 points)

Write each sentence in the correct column.

The satellite ____ a continuous stream of atmospheric data when contact was lost. • The team ____ compelling data over three years before the paper was published. • She ____ the ambiguous clause in favour of the claimant. • The installation ____ sufficient power to sustain the research station. • The network infrastructure ____ noticeably while the maintenance contract lapsed. • While aid workers ____ supplies, a second emergency was declared nearby. • The technician ____ the files and archived them in chronological order. • The body ____ the industry strictly and imposed several significant penalties.

Action in progress	Completed action

Exercise 7 · Complete the Conversation (8 points)

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

Dr Reeves: What exactly (was the system transmitting / did the system transmit / the system was transmitting) when the relay station (lost / was losing / lose) contact?

Dr Lim: It (was transmitting / transmitted / transmit) live readings from the field units while the ground team (was interpreting / interpreted / interpret) the incoming data.

Dr Reeves: (Did / Was / Were) the system (generate / generated / generating) any warning signals before the failure?

Dr Lim: Yes. We (were accumulating / accumulated / accumulate) irregularities for several hours, but the situation (deteriorated / was deteriorating / deteriorate) faster than expected.

Dr Reeves: And (was / did / were) the oversight committee (regulating / regulated / regulate) the backup protocol at the time?

Dr Lim: They (classified / were classifying / classify) the procedures the previous week and (distributed / were distributing / distribute) a revised version to all field teams.

TEACHER ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Simple Past vs Past Continuous · B1 Lesson 4

This answer key is for teacher use only.

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? — Answers

1. The signal was transmitting data when the interference began. → **PC**
2. The agency regulated the sector strictly throughout the previous decade. → **SP**
3. While the volunteers were distributing supplies, a second convoy arrived. → **PC**
4. The device generated enough power to run the entire facility. → **SP**
5. Scientists were accumulating evidence for years before publishing. → **PC**
6. The archivist classified the documents by date and origin. → **SP**
7. His condition was deteriorating rapidly when the specialist intervened. → **PC**
8. The analyst interpreted the results and presented her conclusions. → **SP**

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice — Answers

1. **was transmitting**
2. **regulated**
3. **were distributing**
4. **generated**
5. **were accumulating**
6. **classified**
7. **was deteriorating**
8. **interpreted**

Exercise 3 · Matching — Answers

1. The transmitter was sending the signal when the storm hit. → **a**
2. The body regulated the market and published its annual report. → **b**
3. While they were distributing the resources, a dispute broke out. → **c**
4. The plant generated record levels of output last quarter. → **d**
5. Scientists were accumulating evidence while the debate continued. → **e**
6. The clerk classified the records and filed them systematically. → **f**
7. The situation was deteriorating when the intervention occurred. → **g**
8. She interpreted the findings and issued a formal recommendation. → **h**

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill — Answers

1. The device **was transmitting** real-time readings when the connection was lost.
2. The authority **regulated** pricing across the sector for the entire period.
3. While the team **was distributing** the questionnaires, the session overran by an hour.
4. The new system **generated** far more data than the team had anticipated.
5. Researchers **were accumulating** evidence across multiple trials when funding was withdrawn.
6. She **classified** the specimens into four distinct categories.
7. The patient's condition **was deteriorating** when the consultant finally arrived.
8. He **interpreted** the clause differently and submitted a formal objection.

Exercise 5 · Word Order — Answers

1. **The signal was transmitting data when the interference began .**
2. **The agency regulated the sector throughout the previous decade .**
3. **While the volunteers were distributing supplies a convoy arrived .**
4. **The device generated enough power for the entire facility .**
5. **Scientists were accumulating evidence for years before publishing .**
6. **The archivist classified the documents by date and origin .**
7. **His condition was deteriorating when the specialist intervened .**
8. **She interpreted the results and presented her conclusions .**

Exercise 6 · Word Sort — Answers

Action in progress	Completed action
The satellite ____ a continuous stream of atmospheric data when contact was lost.	The body ____ the industry strictly and imposed several significant penalties.
While aid workers ____ supplies, a second emergency was declared nearby.	The installation ____ sufficient power to sustain the research station.
The team ____ compelling data over three years before the paper was published.	The technician ____ the files and archived them in chronological order.
The network infrastructure ____ noticeably while the maintenance contract lapsed.	She ____ the ambiguous clause in favour of the claimant.

Exercise 7 · Conversation — Answers

Dr Reeves: What exactly **was the system transmitting** when the relay station **lost** contact?

Dr Lim: It **was transmitting** live readings from the field units while the ground team **was interpreting** the incoming data.

Dr Reeves: **Did** the system **generate** any warning signals before the failure?

Dr Lim: Yes. We **were accumulating** irregularities for several hours, but the situation **deteriorated** faster than expected.

Dr Reeves: And **was** the oversight committee **regulating** the backup protocol at the time?

Dr Lim: They **classified** the procedures the previous week and **distributed** a revised version to all field teams.