

## Past continuous/Past simple

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- **The previous action is interrupted by another previous action.**

.....

### Examine the first situation :

Yesterday, Lisa and Luke played tennis.

They began at 3.00 p.m

They finished at 5.00 p.m

- So, at 4.00, they were playing tennis.

- They were playing => they were *in the middle* of playing.
- ( I, he, she, it + WAS )  
or ( we, you, they + WERE ) + Ving
  - => PAST CONTINUOUS

### Examine the second situation :

Lisa and Luke were playing tennis ( = they were in the middle of playing. )

4.15 : Jim arrived !

Jim arrived

=> PAST SIMPLE

( preterit )

Conclusion :

- We often use the past simple ( preterit ) and the past continuous *together* to say that ...

*something happened in the middle of something else.*

### Other examples :

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**It was raining when we *went* out.**

**He *phoned* while we were having dinner.**

- **Test : choose the past simple or the past continuous according to the meaning of the sentences.**
- **No contractions in questions. 9.**

### Questions:

1. At 8 o'clock yesterday evening, I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ dinner...
2. Matt (phone) \_\_\_\_\_ while we were watching a match on television.
3. He (want) \_\_\_\_\_ to tell me that he would better go to the cinema.
4. While we were all watching television, he (try) \_\_\_\_\_ to do his maths exercise.
5. I (explain) \_\_\_\_\_ the exercise to him when Liverpool scored a splendid goal.
6. I (not see) \_\_\_\_\_ it because I was on the phone in the hall.
7. ' What (you / do) \_\_\_\_\_ when they scored ? ' my father asked.
8. ' I (not / watch) \_\_\_\_\_ ! '
9. ' Why (you / not / watch) \_\_\_\_\_ ? '
10. ' Because Matt (want) \_\_\_\_\_ help. '

### REPOSSES :

- 1) was having
- 2) phoned
- 3) wanted
- 4) was trying
- 5) was explaining

- 6) did not see
  - 7) were you doing
  - 8) was not watching
  - 9) were you not watching
  - 10) wanted
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