

English grammar

Past simple and continuous _____

Contents:

Past simple vs continuous exercises	page
▪ Affirmative	2
▪ Questions	4
▪ Negative	5
▪ Revision test	6
▪ Answer keys	8

Our tip: www.e-grammar.org/pdf-books/ All PDF exercises + grammar rules in one place.

Past simple and past continuous affirmative

Exercise 1. Choose the correct tense. _____

As the stranger *came* / *was coming* to the station, a car *stopped* / *was stopping* behind him.

My grandma *never watched* / *was never watching* TV. But she *read* / *was reading* books.

I *started* / *was starting* work at 6 o'clock.

He *got up* / *was getting up* and *switched off* / *was switching off* the light.

When I *finished* / *was finishing* my homework, I *cooked* / *was cooking* dinner.

While we *listened* / *were listening* to the news, the telephone *rang* / *was ringing*. Kate *stood up* / *was standing up* and *answered* / *was answering* it.

As I *drove* / *was driving* to work last Friday, a car *crashed* / *was crashing* in front of me. I *stepped* / *was stepping* on the brakes.

Yesterday Carol *wrote* / *was writing* emails from 10 to 11 and then from 5 to 7 again.

We arrived in Cannes at 2.30. The sun *shone* / *was shining*, people *sunbathed* / *were sunbathing* on the beach and big yachts *sailed* / *were sailing* near the harbour. We parked our car and *went* / *were going* to the beach.

Exercise 2. Find mistakes and correct them. _____

I was doing my homework first and then I had a rest.

.....

My mum was often driving our car when she was younger.

.....

While daddy didn't look, Susan put his key in her pocket.

.....

I needed to talk to her. And at 10 I was calling her.

.....

I saw you with Jill at the cafe. You talked.

.....

Your English is very good. Where were you studying?

.....

As they walked along the river, they saw something in the water.

.....

I was taking her to Dover. We had a great time.

.....

The weather was perfect when the sun was shining. But it was changing soon.

.....

When he met her, she wore a hat.

.....

Past simple and past continuous questions

Exercise 3. Make questions. _____

When I met him, he was talking on the telephone.

Who to? (he | talk)

The company wanted to finish this house last week.

And when it? (they | start)

I saw your wife last night. She was driving a car.

What car? (she | drive)

I tried to get in touch with you last weekend.

Why to get in touch with me? (you | want)

My sister was not listening when I wanted to tell her.

What ? (your sister | do)

When I came to his bedroom, he was snoring.

How ? On his back? (he | lie)

At 10 o'clock I was watching a documentary film.

Which channel ? (you | watch)

I had an accident on Monday.

What ? (happen | you)

Past simple and past continuous negative

Exercise 4. Make negative sentences. _____

She lost her purse.

.....

He rode slowly.

.....

He was making much noise at midnight.

.....

They came early.

.....

We were sitting at the table.

.....

She ran away.

.....

The sun set at 7.45.

.....

It was getting dark at 7.

.....

He was talking to Tim the other day.

.....

They were listening to the radio from 5 to 6.

.....

Past simple and past continuous revision test

Exercise 5. Complete the story. _____

Every day James Lullaby travels to London. Yesterday he (drive) his car, when he (see) a dog in the middle of the road. The dog (watch) the car. James (stop) and (get) out of his car. As he (get) out, the dog (run) away. James (go) back to his car. While he (get) in it, the dog (appear) again and (sit) down in the middle of the road. James (start) the engine, but the dog (not move). James (jump) out of the car and (shout) at the dog. The dog (bark) at him and (begin) to run. James (follow) the dog. Suddenly, he (see) two girls lying on the grass. They (bleed).

6

Exercise 6. Make negative sentences. _____

Example: *James heard a dog on the road. - He didn't hear a dog on the road.*

James was riding a motorbike.

James ran over the dog.

James threw a stone at the dog.

The dog was barking at James all the time.

The dog bit James.

The girls were sitting on the grass.

Exercise 7. Make the policeman's questions. _____

Policeman: ?
(what/do/yesterday at 8 o'clock)

James: I was driving to work.

Policeman: ?
(what time/meet/the dog)

James: I saw him at about 8.30.

Policeman:when you saw the dog?
(drive/fast)

James: No, I wasn't.

Policeman: ?
(what/the dog/do)

James: He ran away.

Policeman: ?
(how/find/the two girls)

James: I followed the dog, when he came back.

Policeman: ?
(see/anyone else)

James: No, I didn't.

Policeman: ?
(call/an ambulance)

James: No, I didn't. I drove the girls to the hospital.

Answer keys

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Exercise 1

As the stranger *was coming* to the station, a car *stopped* behind him.

My grandma *never watched* TV. But she *read* books.

I *started* work at 6 o'clock.

He *got up* and *switched off* the light.

When I *finished* my homework, I *cooked* dinner.

While we *were listening* to the news, the telephone *rang*. Kate *stood up* and *answered* it.

As I *was driving* to work last Friday, a car *crashed* in front of me. I *stepped* on the brakes.

Yesterday Carrol *wrote* emails from 10 to 11 and then from 5 to 7 again.

We arrived in Cannes at 2.30. The sun *was shining*, people *were sunbathing* on the beach and big yachts *were sailing* near the harbour. We parked our car and *went* to the beach.

8

Exercise 2

I *did* my homework first and then I had a rest.

My mum often *drove* our car when she was younger.

While daddy *was not (wasn't) looking*, Susan put his key in her pocket.

I needed to talk to her. And at 10 I *called* her.

I saw you with Jill at the cafe. You *were talking*.

Your English is very good. Where *did you study*?

As they *were walking* along the river, they saw something in the water.

I *took* her to Dover. We had a great time.

The weather was perfect when the sun was shining. But it *changed* soon.

When he met her, she *was wearing* a hat.

Exercise 3

Who *was he talking to*?

And when *did they start it*?

What car *was she driving*?

Why *did you want to get in touch with me*?

What *was your sister doing*?

How *was he lying*? On his back?

Which channel *were you watching*?

What *happened to you*?

Exercise 4

She *did not (didn't) lose* her purse.

He *did not (didn't) ride* slowly.

He *was not (wasn't) making* much noise at midnight.

They *did not (didn't) come* early.

We *were not (weren't) sitting* at the table.

She *did not (didn't) run* away.

The sun *did not (didn't) set* at 7.45.

It *was not (wasn't) getting* dark at 7.

He *was not (wasn't) talking* to Tim the other day.

They *were not (weren't) listening* to the radio from 5 to 6.

Exercise 5

Every day James Lullaby travels to London. Yesterday he *was driving* his car, when he *saw* a dog in the middle of the road. The dog *was watching* the car. James *stopped* and *got* out of his car. As he *was getting* out, the dog *ran* away. James *went* back to his car. While he *was getting* in it, the dog *appeared* again and *sat* down in the middle of the road. James *started* the engine, but the dog *did not (didn't) move*. James *jumped* out of the car and *shouted* at the dog. The dog *barked* at him and began to run. James *followed* the dog. Suddenly, he *saw* two girls lying on the grass. They *were bleeding*.

Exercise 6

James *was not (wasn't) riding* a motorbike.

James *did not (didn't) run* over the dog.

James *did not (didn't) throw* a stone at the dog.

The dog *was not (wasn't) barking* at James all the time.

The dog *did not (didn't) bite* James.

The girls *were not (weren't) sitting* on the grass.

Exercise 7

What were you doing yesterday at 8 o'clock?

What time did you meet the dog?

Were you driving fast when you saw the dog?

What did the dog do?

How did you find the two girls?

Did you see anyone else?

Did you call an ambulance?