

5 ●●○ Completa questi paragrafi con il **past simple** o **past continuous** dei verbi tra parentesi.

My friend Jo and I (0) decided (decide) to go to the beach by bus. While we (1) _____ (wait) at the bus stop, it suddenly (2) _____ (start) to rain. We (3) _____ (wear) shorts, and we (4) _____ (not have) an umbrella. While we (5) _____ (stand) there in the rain, Jo's mum (6) _____ (drive) past, so we (7) _____ (wave) to her. Luckily, she (8) _____ (see) us and (9) _____ (take) us home.

This morning we (10) _____ (do) the English test and I (11) _____ (not know) what to write. Dana (12) _____ (sit) in front of me and so I (13) _____ (beg) her to help me. While she (14) _____ (try) to pass me a note, Mrs Hart suddenly (15) _____ (look) up and (16) _____ (see) us. It was so embarrassing!

6 PRELIMINARY Leggi l'articolo di giornale e decidi se le affermazioni sono vere (T) o false (F).

SPIDER-MAN TO THE RESCUE



BANGKOK – A Thai fireman turned superhero when he dressed up as Spider-Man to coax a frightened eight-year-old from a classroom window ledge, police said Tuesday. Fireman Somchai Yoosabai was called to the school when the boy climbed out of a window and sat on the third-floor ledge. His teachers and his mother couldn't persuade him to come back inside, he said in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

'He was nervous because it was his first day at the school, and he was asking for his mother,' Somchai said. 'When I got there, he was dangling his legs over the side and sobbing. But he refused to let any of us help him.'

The boy's mother was crying, too, and she was telling

the teachers about his love of comics and superheroes. This gave Somchai an idea. He rushed back to the fire station to change into a Spider-Man costume that he keeps in his locker.

Half an hour later the child saw Spider-Man by the window. The superhero was smiling and holding a glass of juice for him. 'I told him Spider-Man is here to save you. No monster will hurt you now,' Somchai said. 'Then I told him to move slowly toward me.' Somchai, who normally uses his Spider-Man and Ultraman costumes to liven up fire drills at schools, said the teary-eyed boy broke into a smile and climbed back into the room.

1. The schoolchildren were having a fire drill on Tuesday. _____
2. The eight-year-old boy was frightened of monsters in the new school. _____
3. The boy's classroom was on the second floor. _____
4. He was crying and calling his mother. _____
5. He jumped from a school balcony. _____
6. At first the fireman couldn't help the child. _____
7. The teachers and the boy's mother were crying. _____
8. The mother's words gave the fireman a brilliant idea. _____
9. When he went back to the school, he wasn't wearing his uniform. _____
10. In the end the boy came back inside the classroom. _____

Leggendo un libro quando ho sentito una voce. 3. Ieri,

12 Past Simple or Past Continuous

1 Compare the Past Simple and the Past Continuous:

PAST SIMPLE

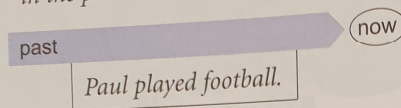
He *talked* to her last week.
I *didn't talk* to her yesterday.
Did you *talk* to your sister?

PAST CONTINUOUS

He *was talking* to her when I saw him.
I *wasn't talking* to anyone, I was watching the TV.
Were you *talking* to her before I came?

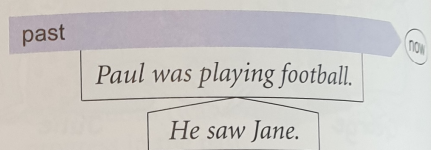
2 We use the Past Simple to talk about a complete event in the past:

Last Saturday morning, Paul played football in the park.



We use the Past Continuous to talk about an action that was in progress, when something else happened:

Last Saturday, Paul was playing football in the park when he saw Jane.



Here are some more examples:

*On Sunday I made a cake.
It rained a lot on Saturday morning.*

Here are some more examples:

*The phone rang while I was making a cake.
It was raining when we left home.*

3 We often use the Past Simple to talk about one event that followed another event:

When Ann James left university, she went to work for a bank. She left the bank after five years, and wrote a book which ...

In a story we often use the Past Continuous to say what was in progress, when something happened:

The sun was shining. People were sitting under the trees or walking around the park. Suddenly a car drove into the park ...

Practice

A Use the Past Simple and the Past Continuous to make sentences from the words in brackets ().

▶ (The police/arrive/while/I/have/breakfast)

The police arrived while I was having breakfast.

1 (The storm/start/while/they/drive/home)

2 (I/see/an accident/while/I/wait/for the bus)

3 (Mary/go/to several concerts/while/she/stay/in London)

▶ (I/have/breakfast/when/the police/arrive)

I was having breakfast when the police arrived.

4 (My father/cook/the dinner/when/he/burn/his fingers)

5 (The soldiers/prepare/to leave/when/the bomb/explode)

6 ●●○ Completa con *when* o *while*. In alcuni casi entrambi sono possibili.

- ▶ I was talking to Keith when I suddenly had a brilliant idea.
- He was listening to the radio driving.
 - I was studying at university, I met my wife.
 - they were sleeping last night, somebody broke into the house.
 - You were relaxing on the beach I was working hard.
 - Who were you talking to I saw you?
 - I was reading your message you were writing another one.
 - You were speaking fluent French I was still learning.
 - She was having a shower the doorbell rang.
 - dad was cooking dinner we were doing our homework.
 - I was listening to the news, there was a crash upstairs.
 - I was writing the report, my boss was in a meeting.
 - What were you looking for I came into the room?

7 PRELIMINARY Completa il rapporto della polizia su un incidente stradale scegliendo l'opzione corretta.

On Tuesday morning at about 10.15 a.m., a car (0) A north on the main road through Kimberton. It was travelling at approximately 30 miles per hour. (1) it reached the stop sign at the crossroads, it stopped. No other cars (2) in any direction, so the car started again and (3) right. As it was turning, a lorry arrived behind it. The driver looked in his mirror and realised the lorry (4) faster, so he accelerated. (5) he was accelerating, a cyclist came out of a private gate and (6) to look at the road. The car hit the cyclist, who (7) a helmet and was not hurt. The lorry, which was going too fast, (8) the back of the car but drove off without stopping. Luckily there (9) no casualties.

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|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| ▶ A was travelling | B travelling | C wasn't travelling | D travelled |
| 1. A Yesterday morning | B While | C When | D Last morning |
| 2. A had coming | B was coming | C come | D were coming |
| 3. A turn | B didn't turn | C turned | D was turning |
| 4. A was travelling | B travelling | C wasn't travelling | D travelled |
| 5. A Before | B While | C After | D When |
| 6. A remembered | B didn't forget | C forgotten | D forgot |
| 7. A was wearing | B was dressing | C was taking | D was bringing |
| 8. A hat | B hitted | C hit | D hut |
| 9. A was | B wasn't | C were | D weren't |

8 ●●○ La polizia indaga sull'incidente. Alcune persone rispondono alla domanda *What were you doing yesterday morning at 10.15?* usando il *past continuous* e aggiungendo gli elementi necessari.

▶ I / wait / doctor's surgery

- I / do / some shopping / supermarket
- My husband and I / paint / kitchen
- I / speak / on phone
- We / help / children / get ready
- I / give / baby / bath / my mum / knit
- I / lie / bed / flu

I was waiting in the doctor's surgery.

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B Complete these texts using the Past Simple or the Past Continuous of the verbs in brackets ().

- ▶ Beethoven wrote..... (write) nine symphonies; he was writing.. (write) another symphony when he died.
- 1 Last Saturday Tom wanted to make two salads. He (make) the first one in five minutes. He (make) the second one when his guests (arrive), and they (help) him to finish it.
 - 2 The artist Gaudi (design) several houses in Barcelona, Spain. Later he (start) work on a church. He (work) on the church when he (die).
 - 3 Last month a bank robber (escape) while the police (take) him to prison. Later they (catch) him again, and this time they (lock) him up without any problem.
 - 4 Philip's football team were lucky last Saturday. After twenty minutes they (lose), but in the end they (win) the game by four goals to two.
 - 5 John Lennon (sing) and (play) on many records with the Beatles. After that he (record) several songs without the Beatles. He (prepare) a new record when Mark Chapman (shoot) him.
 - 6 The evening was getting darker; the street lights (come) on. People (hurry) home after work. I (stand) in a queue at the bus stop. Suddenly somebody (grab) my bag.

C A policewoman is interviewing Mary Croft about last Friday evening. Look at the pictures and complete the conversation. Use the Past Simple or the Past Continuous of the words in brackets ().



- Policewoman: What time (▶) did you get..... (you/get) home from work?
 Mary: At about six o'clock.
 Policewoman: And what (1)..... (you/do) after you got home?
 Mary: I read the newspaper.
 Policewoman: Did anything happen while (2)..... (read) the paper?
 Mary: Yes, the phone (3)..... (ring).
 Policewoman: What (4)..... (you/do) when your husband came home?
 Mary: I was watching TV, and I (5)..... (drink) a cup of coffee.
 Policewoman: Did you and your husband stay at home?
 Mary: No, I (6)..... (drink) my coffee. Then I put on my raincoat, and we (7)..... (go) out at seven o'clock.
 Policewoman: Why (8)..... (you/put) your raincoat on?
 Mary: Because it (9)..... (rain), of course.

2 ●○○ Completa le frasi con il *past simple* e il *past continuous* dei verbi tra parentesi.

- ▶ While I was waiting (wait) for my plane I checked (check) my email.
- Dad made (make) breakfast for us when mum left (leave) for work this morning.
 - We saw (see) a famous actor while we were shopping (window-shop) yesterday.
 - I broke (you break) your leg while you were skiing (ski)?
 - I was talking (talk) to Helena on the phone when it suddenly went (go) dead.
 - The accident happened (happen) while Rachel was parking (park) her car.
 - The little boy cried (cry) because he was eating (wasn't) an ice cream.
 - It was raining (it still rain) when the race started (start)?

3 PRELIMINARY William Hilton ha inviato un'email di reclamo al vicino di casa. Completala scegliendo l'opzione corretta.

Dear Mr Taylor,

I (1) to you regarding the noise coming from your flat at unsociable hours. The noise (2) me a serious problem in that I cannot sleep at night because of it, and then I cannot concentrate at work the next day.

Two days ago, Thursday 15th March, at 11:00 p.m., your two sons (3) loud music and (4) at the top of their voices. What's more, your wife (5) the furniture and (6) the flat. Again, on Friday 16th, at 6:00 a.m. you (7) away in your kitchen, which is directly above my bedroom.

I (8) to you about the noise from your household on 10th February and 11th March – to no avail, it seems. If the level of noise does not stop, I will be forced to call the police or take action with a lawsuit.

Sincerely,
William Hilton

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|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. A write | B am writing | C wrote | D was writing |
| 2. A causes | B caused | C was causing | D is causing |
| 3. A played | B were playing | C are playing | D play |
| 4. A sang | B sung | C singing | D sing |
| 5. A was moving | B moves | C is moving | D moved |
| 6. A hoovering | B hovering | C hoovering | D hoovereing |
| 7. A were hammering | B are hammering | C hammering | D hammered |
| 8. A was speaking | B am speaking | C spoke | D couldn't speak |

4 ●●○ Completa il dialogo con il *past simple* o il *past continuous*.

- Dan: How did you break your wrist, Simon?
- Simon: Well, I was (0) climbing (climb) a ladder when I (1) (fall) off it.
- Dan: But what (2) you (do) up a ladder?
- Simon: Well, I (3) (decide) to clean my windows myself, and not pay a window cleaner. You see, I (4) (climb) the ladder when my dog (5) (see) me. He (6) (wasn't) to come with me, so he (7) (start) to climb the ladder too. He (8) (climb) it when suddenly he (9) (jump) off.
- Dan: But is he hurt too? Poor thing!
- Simon: Oh no, he only (10) (reach) the second step.
- Dan: And then what happened?
- Simon: His fall (11) (move) the ladder while I (12) (lose) my balance. I (13) (take) a step up, and
- Steve: Oh dear, that is bad luck!

A2-B1