

www.perfect-english-grammar.com
Past Simple or the Past Continuous?

Choose the past simple or past continuous:

1. What were you doing (you / do) when I
called (call) you last night?
2. I was sitting (sit) in a café when you
called (call).
3. When you arrived (arrive) at the party, who
was (be) there?
4. Susie was watching (watch) a film when she
heard (hear) the noise.
5. Yesterday I went (go) to the library, next I
had (have) a swim, later I
met (meet) Julie for a coffee.
6. We were playing (play) tennis when John
hurt (hurt) his ankle.
7. What were they doing (they / do) at 10pm last night? It
was (be) really noisy.
8. He was taking (take) a shower when the telephone
rang (ring).
9. He was (be) in the shower when the telephone
rang (ring).
10. When I walked (walk) into the room, everyone
was working (work).

11. It _____ (be) a day last September. The sun
_____ (shine), the birds _____
(sing). I _____ (walk) along the street when I
_____ (meet) an old friend.
12. He _____ (live) in Russia when the Revolution
_____ (start).
13. When her train _____ (get) to the station, we
_____ (wait) on the platform.
14. He _____ (be) so annoying! He
_____ (always / leave) his things everywhere.
15. On holiday we _____ (visit) Rome,
_____ (see) the Vatican, and
_____ (spend) a few days at the beach.
16. Why _____ (you / stand) on a chair when I
_____ (come) into the room?
17. They _____ (live) in Germany when they
_____ (be) young.
18. At 7pm yesterday, we _____ (listen) to music.
19. When I _____ (leave) the house, it
_____ (snow).
20. He _____ (work) in a bank when he
_____ (meet) his wife.

Answers:

1. What **were you doing** when I **called** you last night?
2. I **was sitting** in a café when you **called**.
3. When you **arrived** at the party, who **was** there?
4. Susie **was watching** a film when she **heard** the noise.
5. Yesterday I **went** to the library, next I **had** a swim, later I **met** Julie for a coffee.
6. We **were playing** tennis when John **hurt** his ankle.
7. What **were they doing** at 10pm last night? It **was** really noisy.
8. He **was taking** a shower when the telephone **rang**.
9. He **was** in the shower when the telephone **rang**.
10. When I **walked** into the room, everyone **was working**.
11. It **was** a day last September. The sun **was shining**, the birds **were singing**. I **was walking** along the street when I **met** an old friend.
12. He **was living** in Russia when the Revolution **started**.
13. When her train **got** to the station, we **were waiting** on the platform.
14. He **was** so annoying! He **was always leaving** his things everywhere.
15. On holiday we **visited** Rome, **saw** the Vatican, and **spent** a few days at the beach.
16. Why **were you standing** on a chair when I **came** into the room?
17. They **lived** in Germany when they **were** young.
18. At 7pm yesterday, we **were listening** to music.
19. When I **left** the house, it **was snowing**.
20. He **was working** in a bank when he **met** his wife.