

Past Simple or Past Continuous?

When I _____ the exercise I _____ at the pictures.

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| 1. was starting | 2. were starting | 3. started |
| 4. was looking | 5. were looking | 6. looked |

While I _____ the exercise I _____ at my worksheet.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. was doing | 2. were doing | 3. did |
| 4. was looking | 5. were looking | 6. looked |

While I _____ the exercise I _____ my brain a lot.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------|
| 1. was doing | 2. were doing | 3. did |
| 1. was using | 2. were using | 3. used |

In the exercise there _____ a picture of three doctors who _____.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1. was being | 2. were being | 3. was |
| 4. was singing | 5. were singing | 6. sang |

And a picture of Bill Gates who _____ a plane.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| 1. was flying | were flying | 2. flew |
|---------------|-------------|---------|

Past simple, past continuous exercise 1

1. When I (do) _____ the washing-up, I (break) _____ a plate.
2. While Tom (play) _____ the piano, his mother (do) _____ the washing-up.
3. He (drink) _____ some juice and then he (eat) _____ a few chips.
4. I (have) _____ dinner when I suddenly (hear) _____ a loud bang.
5. When my father (work) _____ in the garden, an old friend (pass) _____ by to see him.
6. She (go) _____ to school, (take) _____ out her textbook and (begin) _____ to read.
7. When it (start) _____ to rain, our dog (want) _____ to come inside.
8. When Jane (do) _____ a language course in Ireland, she (visit) _____ Blarney Castle.
9. When I (be) _____ on my way home, I (see) _____ an accident.
10. I (not / understand) _____ what they (talk) _____ about.

Past simple, past continuous exercise 2

1. When I (get) _____ up yesterday, the sun (shine) _____.
2. It (is) _____ a beautiful morning.
3. So I (decide) _____ to cycle around a little.
4. I (go) _____ to the shed and (take) _____ out my bike.
5. While I (cycle) _____ past some villages, I (see) _____ some people in their gardens.
6. One man (mow) _____ the grass while his wife (pick) _____ strawberries.
7. After one hour of cycling in sunshine, a big fat raincloud suddenly (appear) _____ and it (start) _____ to rain.
8. Luckily, a farmer (notice) _____ me and (tell) _____ me to come in.
9. While it (rain) _____ outside, I (sit) _____ in the farmer's house.
10. After a while, the sun (come) _____ out again.
11. I (thank) _____ the farmer for his hospitality and (move) _____ on.