

Past Simple / Past Continuous

A Complete the sentences with the Past Continuous or Past Simple of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 He *was waiting* (wait) for the bus when his father *arrived* (arrive).
- 2 The girls (swim) outside when it (start) to get cold.
- 3 I (listen) to the radio while I (read).
- 4 When his mother (come) home, the baby (sleep).
- 5 When the phone (ring), I (write) a letter.
- 6 They (dance) when the music suddenly (stop).

B Complete the sentences with *when* or *while*.

- 1 I was watching TV *while* my parents were reading the newspaper.
- 2 Where were you going I saw you in the street yesterday?
- 3 Was the dog barking you came home?
- 4 The fire started Dad was cooking dinner.

C Complete the sentences with the Past Simple or Past Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I *was writing* (write) an e-mail to Tom when the postman *delivered* (deliver) his letter!
- 2 When I (leave) home yesterday, some dogs (sit) near the front gate.
- 3 John (not swim) at four o'clock. He (play) football.
- 4 Bob (lie) in the garden when it (start) to rain.
- 5 As I (put) the baby to bed, the phone (ring).
- 6 What you (do) when Dan (fall)?

Past Simple / Past Continuous – Answers

- A**
- 1 was waiting; arrived
 - 2 were swimming; started
 - 3 was listening; was reading
 - 4 came; was sleeping
 - 5 rang; was writing
 - 6 were dancing; stopped
- B**
- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 while | 3 when |
| 2 when | 4 while |
- C**
- 1 was writing, delivered
 - 2 left, were sitting
 - 3 wasn't swimming, was playing
 - 4 was lying, started
 - 5 was putting, rang
 - 6 were ... doing, fell