

INTERMEDIATE

Level

"PAST SIMPLE" VS "PAST CONTINUOUS"

- 1) Past simple → completed action
 Past continuous → completed action?

Past simple: She **wrote** a letter.

Past cont.: She **was writing** a letter.

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"PAST SIMPLE" VS "PAST CONTINUOUS"

- 2) Past simple → a fact
 Past continuous → duration

PS: - What **did** you **do** yesterday?
 - I **watched** TV.

PC: - What **were** you **doing** yesterday at 8?
 - I **was watching** TV.

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USE OF "WHEN" AND "WHILE"

When + subject + **past simple** ...

While + subject + **past continuous** ...

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USE OF "WHEN" AND "WHILE"

When + past simple, past simple

two consecutive actions in the past

I opened the door **when** the bell rang.
When she had dinner, she went to bed

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USE OF "WHEN" AND "WHILE"

While + past continuous, past continuous

two simultaneous actions in the past

She was reading a book **while** her children were playing.

While she was studying, I was working.

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USE OF "WHEN" AND "WHILE"

To express that a short action happened in the middle of a long action (or "interrupted" a long action) we use:

when + short action (past simple)
while + long action (past continuous)

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USE OF "WHEN" AND "WHILE"

Examples:

I was washing the dishes **when** the telephone rang.

The telephone rang **while** I was washing the dishes.

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PAST SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS

These two tenses show different ideas:

- What **did** you **do** when it started to rain?
- We **went** home. (*after it started to rain*)
- What **were** you **doing** when it started to rain?
- We **were going** home. (*before it started to rain*)

Elegir la opción correcta en cada caso.

- 1 a. How many letters did you writte? I wrote two letters.
b. How many letters were you writing? I wrote two letters.
c. How many letters did you write? We wrote two letters.
- 2 a. When I got home there weren't anybody there.
b. When I was getting home there wasn't anybody there.
c. When I got home there wasn't anybody there.
- 3 a. What were you doing when I was phoning you?
b. What did you do when I was phoning you?
c. What were you doing when I phoned you?
- 4 a. They were winning the lottery.
b. They were wining the lottery.
c. They won the lottery.
- 5 a. When the doorbell rang we were having lunch.
b. When the doorbell was ringing we had lunch.
c. When the doorbell rang we had lunch.



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EJERCICIOS



Completar los espacios usando “when” o “while”, o bien dejarlos en blanco, según corresponda.

6 she saw the ghost she got frightened.

- a. -, when b. -, while c. when, -

7 My uncle was washing his car his children were playing.

- a. when b. while c. -

8 the director died his son didn't want to accept that post.

- a. when, - b. while, - c. -, while

9 somebody stole my i-Pod I was speaking to a friend on the phone.

- a. when, while b. -, while c. while, -

10 we were going to the movies it started to snow.

- a. -, while b. while, when c. while, -

Soluciones: 1.- c) How many letters did you write? We wrote two letters. 2.- c) When I got home there wasn't anybody there. 3.- c) What were you doing when I phoned you? 4.- c) They won the lottery. 5.- a) When the doorbell rang we were having lunch. 6.- c) when, - 7.- b) while 8.- a) when, - 9.- b) -, while 10.- c) while, -