

SIMPLE PAST VS PAST CONTINUOUS EXERCISES



a

Circle the correct words. Choose the past simple or the past continuous tense.

1 Andrew took a shower, had breakfast and left / was leaving for school.

2 I was sure I knew / was knowing the answer to the question.

3 Stephanie was washing the dishes when he dropped / was dropping a plate.

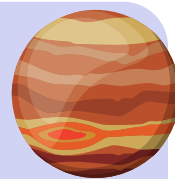
4 Eben had / was having a coffee with his friends last Sunday morning.

5 They bought / were buying a new dishwasher last month.

6 Edward was cooking a pie while Andrew peeled / was peeling the onions.

7 The waiters were rushing around and the diners ate / were eating when I arrived at the restaurant.

8 When you phoned me last night, I watched / was watching a movie on NETFLEX.



b

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



1 The customers _____ the food, so the restaurant _____ (not like, close).

2 The chef _____ TV so he _____ the food (watch, burn).

3 While the waiter _____ Mrs Green, he _____ orange juice on her (serve, spill).

4 First, I _____ the fish and then I _____ lemon juice over it (fry, squeeze).

5 Don't worry. We _____ dinner when you _____ (not have, call).

6 I _____ a dessert to follow my spaghetti, but I _____ too full to eat it (order, be).

7 Veronica _____ cookbook while her children _____ in the garden (read, play).

8 Fred _____ to the Indian restaurant because he _____ keen on spicy food (not go, not be).



SIMPLE PAST VS PAST CONTINUOUS EXERCISES

Answer Key



a

Circle the correct words. Choose the past simple or the past continuous tense.

1 Andrew took a shower, had breakfast and left / was leaving for school.

2 I was sure I knew / was knowing the answer to the question.

3 Stephanie was washing the dishes when he dropped / was dropping a plate.

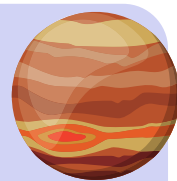
4 Eben had / was having a coffee with his friends last Sunday morning.

5 They bought / were buying a new dishwasher last month.

6 Edward was cooking a pie while Andrew peeled / was peeling the onions.

7 The waiters were rushing around and the diners ate / were eating when I arrived at the restaurant.

8 When you phoned me last night, I watched / was watching a movie on NETFLEX.



b

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



1 The customers didn't like the food, so the restaurant closed (not like, close).

2 The chef was watching TV so he burnt the food (watch, burn).

3 While the waiter was serving Mrs Green, he spilt/spilled orange juice on her (serve, spill).

4 First, I fried the fish and then I squeezed lemon juice over it (fry, squeeze).

5 Don't worry. We weren't having dinner when you called (not have, call).

6 I ordered a dessert to follow my spaghetti, but I was too full to eat it (order, be).

7 Veronica was reading cookbook while her children were playing in the garden (read, play).

8 Fred didn't go to the Indian restaurant because he wasn't keen on spicy food (not go, not be).

