

Ejercicios de simple past vs past continuous en inglés

Nivel: A2, B1

¿Simple past o past continuous?

El past continuous (was/were + -ing) establece la escena con una acción en desarrollo; el simple past informa de la acción más corta que ocurrió —o que la interrumpió.

Past continuous: was/were + -ing: At 8 p.m. I was cooking dinner.

Simple past: acciones completadas: The phone rang.

Patrón de interrupción: While I was cooking, the phone rang. (acción larga + acción corta)

Acciones paralelas: While I was cooking, he was setting the table.

Palabras clave: while, as + continuous; when + simple past

Ejercicio 1: Elige el tiempo verbal correcto

Selecciona la opción correcta para completar cada oración.

- I ___ a shower when the doorbell rang.
a) took b) was taking c) am taking
- She ___ her coffee, paid, and left the café.
a) was finishing b) finished c) finishes
- What ___ you ___ at 10 o'clock last night?
a) did / do b) were / doing c) have / done
- While we ___ in the garden, it suddenly started to rain.
a) were sitting b) sat c) sit
- He ___ his leg while he was playing football.
a) was breaking b) broke c) breaks

Ejercicio 2: Completa las oraciones

Escribe la forma correcta del verbo entre corchetes (simple past o past continuous).

- When you called, I ___ TV. (watch)
- The children ___ in the park when it began to snow. (play)
- She ___ the letter, put it in an envelope, and posted it. (sign)
- While I ___ to work, I saw an accident. (drive)
- They ___ dinner at 8, so I didn't want to disturb them. (have)

Ejercicio 3: Ordena las palabras

Haz clic en las palabras en el orden correcto para construir la oración.

11. Ordena las palabras en el orden correcto: **was / when / raining / it / we arrived**

12. Ordena las palabras en el orden correcto: **while / was sleeping / the baby / she / worked**

13. Ordena las palabras en el orden correcto: **were / at 9 p.m. / what / doing / you / ?**

14. Ordena las palabras en el orden correcto: **fell / he / was running / while / he**

Ejercicio 4: ¿Verdadero o falso?

Decide si cada afirmación es verdadera o falsa.

15. The past continuous is formed with was/were + verb-ing. Verdadero / Falso

16. In "While I was cooking, the phone rang", the phone call lasted longer than the cooking. Verdadero / Falso

17. Two parallel past actions can both use the past continuous with 'while'. Verdadero / Falso

18. "I was knowing the answer" is correct. Verdadero / Falso

Soluciones

Ejercicio 1: Elige el tiempo verbal correcto

1. b) was taking
2. b) finished
3. b) were / doing
4. a) were sitting
5. b) broke

Ejercicio 2: Completa las oraciones

6. was watching
7. were playing
8. signed
9. was driving
10. were having

Ejercicio 3: Ordena las palabras

11. it was raining when we arrived
12. she worked while the baby was sleeping
13. what were you doing at 9 p.m. ?
14. he fell while he was running

Ejercicio 4: ¿Verdadero o falso?

15. Verdadero
16. Falso
17. Verdadero
18. Falso