



PAST SIMPLE PAST CONTINUOUS

Exercise 1:

Complete the following sentences with the correct form (Past Simple or Past Continuous).

1. A: What (you, do) _____ when you heard that noise?

B: I (try) _____ to change a light bulb that had burnt out.

2. After I (find) _____ the wallet full of money, I (go, immediately) _____ to the police and (turn) _____ it in.

3. The doctor (say) _____ that Brian (be) _____ too weak to go to work and that he (need) _____ to stay at home for a couple of days.

4. My best friend (arrive) _____ at my house a little before 9:00 pm, but I (be, not) _____ there. I (study) _____ at the library for my final examination in Italian.

5. John is in the living room working on his computer. At this time yesterday, he (work, also) _____ on his computer. That's all he ever does!

6. A: I (call) _____ you last night after dinner, but you (be, not) _____ there. Where were you?

B: I (work) _____ out at the gym.

7. When I (walk) _____ into the busy office, the secretaries (talk) _____ on the phone with customers, a clerk (work, busily) _____ at his desk, and two managers (discuss, quietly) _____ methods to improve customer service.





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8. I (watch) _____ a thriller on T.V. when the electricity went out. Now I am never going to find out how the film ends.
9. Samantha (be) _____ in the room when Bob (tell) _____ me what happened, but she didn't hear anything because she (listen, not) _____.
10. It's strange that you (call) _____ because I (think, just) _____ about you.
11. The Titanic (cross) _____ the Atlantic when it (strike) _____ an iceberg.
12. When I entered the store, a couple of merchants (bargain, noisily) _____ and (try) _____ to sell their goods to naive tourists who (hunt) _____ for souvenirs. Some young boys (lead) _____ their donkeys through the narrow streets on their way home. A couple of men (argue) _____ over the price of a leather belt. I (walk) _____ over to a man who (sell) _____ fruit and (buy) _____ a banana.
13. The firemen (rescue) _____ the old woman who (be) _____ trapped on the third floor of the burning building.
14. I was very upset! He (leave, always) _____ his dirty dishes in the sink. I think he (expect) _____ me to do them up for him.
15. Samantha (live) _____ in Cambridge for more than two years. In fact, she (live) _____ there when I was a student.

