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Past Simple or the Past Continuous?

Choose the past simple or past continuous:

1. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) when I  
\_\_\_\_\_ (call) you last night?
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in a café when you  
\_\_\_\_\_ (call).
3. When you \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) at the party, who  
\_\_\_\_\_ (be) there?
4. Susie \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a film when she  
\_\_\_\_\_ (hear) the noise.
5. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the library, next I  
\_\_\_\_\_ (have) a swim, later I  
\_\_\_\_\_ (meet) Julie for a coffee.
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ (play) tennis when John  
\_\_\_\_\_ (hurt) his ankle.
7. What \_\_\_\_\_ (they / do) at 10pm last night? It  
\_\_\_\_\_ (be) really noisy.
8. He \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a shower when the telephone  
\_\_\_\_\_ (ring).
9. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in the shower when the telephone  
\_\_\_\_\_ (ring).
10. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) into the room, everyone  
\_\_\_\_\_ (work).

11. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a day last September. The sun  
\_\_\_\_\_ (shine), the birds \_\_\_\_\_  
(sing). I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) along the street when I  
\_\_\_\_\_ (meet) an old friend.
12. He \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Russia when the Revolution  
\_\_\_\_\_ (start).
13. When her train \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to the station, we  
\_\_\_\_\_ (wait) on the platform.
14. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) so annoying! He  
\_\_\_\_\_ (always / leave) his things everywhere.
15. On holiday we \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) Rome,  
\_\_\_\_\_ (see) the Vatican, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (spend) a few days at the beach.
16. Why \_\_\_\_\_ (you / stand) on a chair when I  
\_\_\_\_\_ (come) into the room?
17. They \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Germany when they  
\_\_\_\_\_ (be) young.
18. At 7pm yesterday, we \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to music.
19. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the house, it  
\_\_\_\_\_ (snow).
20. He \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in a bank when he  
\_\_\_\_\_ (meet) his wife.

Answers:

1. What **were you doing** when I **called** you last night?
2. I **was sitting** in a café when you **called**.
3. When you **arrived** at the party, who **was** there?
4. Susie **was watching** a film when she **heard** the noise.
5. Yesterday I **went** to the library, next I **had** a swim, later I **met** Julie for a coffee.
6. We **were playing** tennis when John **hurt** his ankle.
7. What **were they doing** at 10pm last night? It **was** really noisy.
8. He **was taking** a shower when the telephone **rang**.
9. He **was** in the shower when the telephone **rang**.
10. When I **walked** into the room, everyone **was working**.
11. It **was** a day last September. The sun **was shining**, the birds **were singing**. I **was walking** along the street when I **met** an old friend.
12. He **was living** in Russia when the Revolution **started**.
13. When her train **got** to the station, we **were waiting** on the platform.
14. He **was** so annoying! He **was always leaving** his things everywhere.
15. On holiday we **visited** Rome, **saw** the Vatican, and **spent** a few days at the beach.
16. Why **were you standing** on a chair when I **came** into the room?
17. They **lived** in Germany when they **were** young.
18. At 7pm yesterday, we **were listening** to music.
19. When I **left** the house, it **was snowing**.
20. He **was working** in a bank when he **met** his wife.