



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.