

PAST CONTINUOUS VS. SIMPLE PAST

Tu vai di ripassare insieme due tempi del passato, il Past Continuous e il Past Simple? Il Past Continuous dice che cosa stava succedendo in quel momento, un'azione che ha una durata; il Past Simple racconta che cosa è successo a un certo momento.

Se li usiamo insieme, ci aiutano a raccontare un'azione in corso interrotta o accompagnata da un altro evento.

QUICK GUIDE / RIPASSO VELOCE

Past Simple: subject + past form → **The phone rang.**

Past Continuous: was/were + verb-ing → **I was watching a film.**

Insieme: **I was watching a film when the phone rang.**

Past Continuous = ciò che era in corso / faceva da sfondo.

Past Simple = evento concluso / ciò che è successo.

when = quando; **while** = mentre.



1 What Was Happening? / Che cosa stava succedendo?

| Osserva la scena e completa le frasi scegliendo la forma corretta.



Example

At 7 p.m. yesterday, Mia _____ a book.

☒ **was reading** ☐ read

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. At 7 p.m. yesterday, Tom _____ chess.
☐ was playing ☐ played</p> | <p>2. At 7 p.m. yesterday, Sara _____ dinner.
☐ was cooking ☐ cooked</p> |
| <p>3. At 7 p.m. yesterday, Ben _____ to music.
☐ was listening
☐ listened</p> | <p>4. At 7 p.m. yesterday, Lucy _____ a picture.
☐ was drawing ☐ drew</p> |
| <p>5. At 7 p.m. yesterday, Max _____ on the sofa.
☐ was sleeping ☐ slept</p> | |

2 Then It Happened! / E poi è successo!

Completa ogni frase scegliendo la coppia che contiene le forme verbali giuste.

Example

Leo _____ home when he _____ a strange noise.

☒ **was walking / heard** ☐ walked / was hearing



1. While Emma _____ for the bus, she _____ an old friend.

☐ was waiting / saw ☐ waited / was seeing



2. I _____ dinner when the phone _____.

☐ had / was ringing ☐ was having / rang



3. When we _____ the museum, the guide _____ to the visitors.

☐ were entering / talked

☐ entered / was talking



4. While Sam _____ his homework, his sister _____ music.

☐ was doing / was listening to

☐ did / listened to



5. They _____ in the park when it suddenly _____ to rain.

☐ were walking / started

☐ walked / was starting

3 Spot the Mistake! / Trova l'errore!

| In ogni frase c'è un errore. Trovalo e riscrivi la frase corretta.

Example

They was playing football when it started to rain.

Correggi: **They were playing football when it started to rain.**

1. I was watched TV when my friend called me.

Correggi: _____

2. While Mia was walking home, she was seeing an accident.

Correggi: _____

3. We was waiting for the train when it arrived.

Correggi: _____

4. Tom was running in the park when he fell.

Correggi: _____

5. While I was cooking dinner, my brother was did his homework.

Correggi: _____



4 Story in Pictures / Una storia per immagini

Guarda ogni coppia di immagini e completa la frase usando Past Continuous e Past Simple.



Example

While Ben was walking home, he saw a dog.



1. While Emma _____, the lights _____ out.



2. Jack _____ his bike when he _____ his phone.



3. The friends _____ when a dog _____ past.



4. Sara _____ when the alarm _____.



5. Leo _____ dinner when the doorbell _____.

5 The Mystery at the Museum / Il mistero al museo

Leggi la storia e poi ricostruisci che cosa è successo rispondendo alle domande.

THE MYSTERY AT THE MUSEUM

Last Saturday, the city museum was full of visitors. At about three o'clock, Emma was looking at a painting while her brother Leo was taking photos. A security guard was talking to a group of visitors near the entrance. Suddenly, the lights went out. Everyone stopped and waited in the dark. When the lights came back on, one of the museum's small statues was missing. The guard immediately closed the main doors. While he was checking the security cameras, Emma noticed a blue backpack under a bench. Leo remembered seeing the backpack near the statue earlier. The guard opened it carefully and found the missing statue inside. A museum worker explained that the backpack belonged to a visitor who had left the building just before the lights went out.

Example

What happened after everyone stopped and waited in the dark?

The lights came back on and the statue was missing.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What was Emma doing when the lights went out?

_____ | 2. What did Emma notice while the guard was checking the cameras?

_____ |
| 3. What was the guard doing when Emma noticed the backpack?

_____ | 4. Put these events in the correct order: A. The lights went out. B. The guard found the statue. C. Emma noticed the backpack.

_____ |

SOLUZIONI

1 Activity 1

1 was playing;
2 was cooking;
3 was listening;
4 was drawing;
5 was sleeping.

2 Activity 2

1 was waiting / saw;
2 was having / rang;
3 entered / was talking;
4 was doing / was listening to;
5 were walking / started.

3 Activity 3

1 was watching;
2 saw;
3 were waiting;
4 was running;
5 was doing.

SOLUZIONI

4 Activity 4

- 1 was studying / went;
- 2 was riding / dropped;
- 3 were talking / ran;
- 4 was sleeping / rang;
- 5 was cooking / rang.

5 Activity 5

- 1 She was looking at a painting.
- 2 She noticed a blue backpack.
- 3 He was checking the security cameras.
- 4 A → C → B.

