

Past Simple vs Progressive: Exercises

1. Past Simple vs Progressive

Fill in **only** the Past Simple (Simple + Simple) or the Past Progressive (Progressive + Progressive)!

Examples: I (to take) took a shower, then I (to get dressed) got dressed and (to leave) left.

I (to eat) was eating cornflakes while dad (to read) was reading the newspaper.

- a) First we (to have) _____ some sandwiches, then we (to buy) _____ some milk.
- b) When Shirley (to lie) _____ in bed with the flu, her friends (to play) _____ soccer.
- c) While little Ann (to play) _____, Tom and Mary (to prepare) _____ lunch.
- d) I (to switch off) _____ the TV and the lights and (to go) _____ to bed.
- e) When Sarah (to come) _____ home she (to do) _____ her homework,
4 (to have) _____ supper and then (to go) _____ to cinema with a friend of hers.
- f) We (to have) _____ breakfast, while Tom (to take) _____ a shower.
- g) When he (to hear) _____ she was ill he (to call) _____ her at once.
- h) He (to take) _____ his driving licence last month and (to buy) _____ a car only two days later.
- i) While Mr & Ms Brown (to talk) _____ to Troy's teacher, their son (to wait) _____
_____ outside.
- k) While the police (still / to search) _____ the flat the murderer (to seek)
_____ a hiding-place on the Continent.

9x2 + 4 = 22

2. Past Simple vs Progressive

Example: Susan (to fall) fell asleep while she (to do) was doing her homework.

- a) When I (to walk) _____ to the office yesterday, I (to meet) _____ John.
2
- b) It (to start) _____ to rain when we (to play) _____ in the garden.
2
- c) When we (to watch) _____ TV last night, Susan (to ring) _____ us
and (to tell) _____ us she (to have) _____ a party at the same time.
4
- d) I (to want) _____ to visit you last night, but you (not to be) _____
at home. What (you / to do) _____ at about 8 pm?
3
- e) He (to recognize) _____ me, although I (to wear) _____ sunglasses.
2
- f) When the schoolgirl (to cross) _____ the street, a bicycle (to hit) _____ and
3 (to injure) _____ her.

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3. Past Simple vs Progressive – translate:

- a) Der Kommissar fragte den Verdächtigen: Was haben Sie gestern um acht Uhr gemacht?

The inspector _____ the suspect: “ _____ ?”

- b) Als der Spielfilm (*movie*) anging, war Mutter (*mum*) immer noch am Kochen (*to cook*).

_____ .

- c) Onkel Georg rief an (*to ring*), als wir gerade fernsahen (*to watch TV*).

_____ .

- d) Als ich John kennenlernte (*to meet*), spielte er Gitarre (*the guitar*) in einem Nachtclub.

_____ .

- e) Während ich der Musik lauschte (*to listen to*), stolperte er über (*to stumble over*) ein Kabel.

_____ a cable.

- f) Als ich den Club verließ (*to leave*), sprach John mich an (*to address*).

_____ .

6x2=12

4. Past Simple vs Progressive

Past (2. Stammform: *had, saw, went* etc.) or *Progressive* (*was/were having, was/were going* etc.)?

Last year I (a. *to provide*) _____ first aid for the first time when I (b. *to be*) _____ in Reading to visit a friend of mine. We (c. *to sit*) _____ in John's garden when we suddenly (d. *to hear*) _____ a squeal of tyres ('Reifenquietschen') and a bang. Then there (e. *to be*) _____ a lot of shouts and cries. I immediately (f. *to know*) _____ what (g. *to go on*) _____. I (h. *to rush*) _____ through the garden gate, and when I (i. *to reach*) _____ the car I (k. *to see*) _____ two injured persons: The driver (l. *to sit*) _____ behind the steering wheel, and blood (m. *to run*) _____ from a wound to his head; his wife (n. *to lie*) _____ on the ground beside the open left-hand door. Some neighbours or passers-by (o. *to help*) _____ her, so I (p. *to open*) _____ the other door and carefully (q. *to drag*) _____ him out of the car and (r. *to put*) _____ him in a side position. I (s. *to talk*) _____ to him and (t. *to try*) _____ to stop the
20 blood with a paper hanky when the ambulance (u. *to arrive*) _____ .