

Intermediate grammar exercise: past simple vs. past continuous

English grammar practice exercise

In this exercise you will practise the past simple and past continuous tenses.

Exercise instructions

Use the words in brackets to put the following into the correct tense – the past simple or past continuous.

1. I used my time well while I (wait) _____ for my plane – I wrote some emails.
2. I (not/work) _____ when my boss walked in the office: I was on Facebook.
3. I saw a car crash when I (wait) _____ for the taxi.
4. Tom (have) _____ long hair and a beard when he was at university.
5. It started snowing while I (drive) _____ to work.
6. What (you/do) _____ this time last year?
7. I (not/call) _____ you at 9 o'clock as arranged because I was having a meeting.
8. I (still/sleep) _____ when my wife left for work this morning.
9. Why did you bring your umbrella? (it/rain) _____ when you left home?

Intermediate grammar exercise: past simple vs. past continuous

Key

1. I used my time well while I (wait) **was waiting** for my plane – I wrote some emails.
2. I (not/work) **was not working / wasn't working** when my boss walked in the office: I was on Facebook.
3. I saw a car crash when I (wait) **was waiting** for the taxi.
4. Tom (have) **had** long hair and a beard when he was at university.
5. It started snowing while I (drive) **was driving** to work.
6. What (you/do) **were you doing** this time last year?
7. I (not/call) **didn't call** you at 9 o'clock as arranged because I was having a meeting.
8. I (still/sleep) **was still sleeping** when my wife left for work this morning.
9. Why did you bring your umbrella? (it/rain) **Was it raining** when you left home?

Online version of this exercise

<https://goo.gl/lcwep5>