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?
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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