

Past Simple vs Past Continuous

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Choose the option that best completes each item.

- While she _____ (read) a book, her phone _____ (ring).
a) was reading / rang b) read / ring c) reads / rings
- They _____ (play) cards when the power _____ (go) out.
a) played / went b) were playing / went c) played / gone
- While I _____ (walk) to school, I _____ (meet) an old friend.
a) walk / meet b) walked / meeting c) was walking / met
- The children _____ (play) happily when the rain _____ (start) falling.
a) played / starts b) were playing / started c) play / started
- While they _____ (watch) a movie, the lights _____ (go) off.
a) were watching / went b) watched / goes c) watch / gone
- She _____ (dance) at the party when she _____ (twist) her ankle.
a) danced / twist b) was dancing / twisted c) dances / twisting
- While he _____ (read) a magazine, his dog _____ (bark) loudly.
a) read / barked b) reads / barking c) was reading / barked
- They _____ (talk) about their trip when the phone _____ (ring).
a) were talking / rang b) talked / rang c) talk / ringing
- While she _____ (cook) dinner, the guests _____ (arrive) at her house.
a) cooked / arrive b) was cooking / arrived c) cooks / arrives
- The students _____ (go) out when they _____ (finish) their exam.
a) were going / finished b) went / were finishing c) went / finished
- While he _____ (play) the piano, his sister _____ (sing) along.
a) played / sing b) was playing / was singing c) was playing / sang
- The teacher _____ (explain) the lesson when the bell _____ (ring).
a) explained / ring b) was explaining / rang c) explains / rings
- While they _____ (have) dinner, their favorite songs _____ (play) on the radio.
a) were having / were playing b) were having / played c) have / plays

14. She _____ (draw) a picture while her brother _____ (watch) TV.
 a) was drawing / was watching b) was drawing / watched c) drew / watch
15. While the kids _____ (play) in the garden, it _____ (start) raining heavily.
 a) played / starts b) were playing / started c) play / started
16. He _____ (ride) his bike when he _____ (see) a beautiful rainbow.
 a) rode / see b) was riding / saw c) rides / seeing
17. While they _____ (study) for the exam, the lights _____ (go) out.
 a) were studying / went b) studied / goes c) study / gone
18. The children _____ (play) happily when suddenly the music _____ (stop).
 a) played / stops b) play / stopped c) were playing / stopped
19. While she _____ (wait) for the bus, her friend _____ (call) her.
 a) waited / call b) was waiting / called c) waits / calling
20. The chef _____ (prepare) dinner before the guests _____ (arrive).
 a) prepared / arrived b) was preparing / arrived c) prepares / arrives

Answer Key

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. b
5. a
6. b
7. c
8. a
9. b
10. c
11. b
12. b
13. a
14. a
15. b
16. b
17. a
18. c
19. b
20. a