

Grammar: Past simple vs past continuous

10 Complete the rules.

Past simple vs past continuous

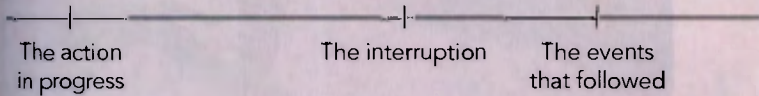
Rules:

We can use the past simple and continuous tenses to talk about interruptions.

We use the 1 _____ tense to describe the longer action that was happening at the time.

We use the 2 _____ to describe the event that interrupted it.

I was working when the fire alarm went off. Everyone left the building.



11 Complete these sentences. Put the verbs in brackets in the past simple or past continuous.

- I _____ (work) on your invoice when my computer screen _____ (freeze).
- The new clients _____ (arrive) just as I _____ (prepare) to leave.
- I _____ (walk) to the coffee shop when I _____ (remember) it was closed today.
- I _____ (drive) along the freeway when the police _____ (stop) me.
- Your wife _____ (ring). She _____ (try) to use her credit card when she _____ (get) a message saying 'insufficient funds'.
- I _____ (just write) to you when your message _____ (arrive).
- He _____ (call) me when I _____ (take) a shower so I _____ (not hear) the phone.
- A: Your eyes were closed when I _____ (come) into the office. _____ you _____ (sleep)?
B: No. I _____ (not sleep). I _____ (rest) my eyes, that's all.

12 Work in pairs. Student A: Turn to File 15, page 141. Student B: Turn to File 21, page 142.

13 Look at the picture on page 141 again. Say what the people were doing when the boss walked in.

Speaking: Alibi

14 Work in pairs. Your boss sent you both to a conference last Friday. His instructions were very specific. Look at his email. What did he want you to do at the exhibition?

Make sure you both:

- attend the keynote speech.
- try to sit next to some interesting people at lunch.
- go to the exhibition.

See if there's any new equipment we should buy. You work better as a team, so stay together at all times.

I'll call you to find out how it's going.

15 The weather was beautiful last Friday so instead of going to the conference you both went to the beach. Your boss called you at 4 p.m. but you did not take the call. You need to pretend you spent the day together at the conference. Create a story about what you did and what you were doing when the boss called.

Be as detailed as possible. Your story will be your alibi (a story that proves you did not do anything wrong). It will need to match your partner's story when the boss asks questions. For example, decide things like ...

- who gave the keynote speech.
- the subject of the speech.
- the questions the audience asked.
- why you didn't answer when your boss phoned you.

16 It's now Monday morning and your boss wants to hear about the conference. Choose a pair from the class to question. Send one member of the pair out of the room and ask the other one questions. They must answer every question. 'I can't remember' is not an acceptable answer.

Who gave the keynote speech?

What were they wearing?

What were you doing at 4 p.m.?

17 Call the other person back into the room and ask the same questions again. Do their stories match? If not, you can fire them both. Then choose another pair and start again.

TALKING POINT

- How easy is it to know if someone is lying to you? What signs do they show?
- Do people usually know if you are lying to them?