

PAST SIMPLE OR CONTINUOUS

A2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Writing | 20-30 minutes

Complete questions, write your answers and put words in order.

EXAMPLE

Question: What **were** you **doing** when the phone rang?

Answer: I **was washing** the dishes.

Remember: Past continuous: background action. Past simple: a finished event or interruption.

A. COMPLETE AND ANSWER

Complete the questions using the verbs in brackets. Then write full answers.

1. What _____ you _____ when class started? (do)

Answer: _____

2. What _____ you _____ after class yesterday? (do)

Answer: _____

3. _____ you _____ when your alarm rang? (sleep)

Answer: _____

4. Who _____ you _____ yesterday? (call)

Answer: _____

5. What _____ you _____ when you left home? (wear)

Answer: _____

6. What time _____ you _____ home yesterday? (get)

Answer: _____

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

Put the words in order. Write each question. Start with a capital letter and add ?.

1. raining / when you left / was / it

2. when the bus arrived / doing / were / what / you

3. you / did / what / buy / yesterday

Try it: Ask your partner the questions in B. Listen to their answers.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

A. COMPLETE AND ANSWER

The missing words are shown below. These are sample answers; personal answers will vary.

1. were / doing - What were you doing when class started?

Sample answer: I was looking for my pen when class started.

2. did / do - What did you do after class yesterday?

Sample answer: I walked home after class yesterday.

3. Were / sleeping - Were you sleeping when your alarm rang?

Sample answer: Yes, I was sleeping when my alarm rang.

4. did / call - Who did you call yesterday?

Sample answer: I called my sister yesterday.

5. were / wearing - What were you wearing when you left home?

Sample answer: I was wearing a blue jacket.

6. did / get - What time did you get home yesterday?

Sample answer: I got home at six yesterday.

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

1. Was it raining when you left?

2. What were you doing when the bus arrived?

3. What did you buy yesterday?

TEACHER NOTES

The key models the intended tense. Accept another grammatical tense if the answer supports that meaning, e.g.

What did you do when class started? for a subsequent action.

B: Accept other natural grammatical orders using all the words.

Time phrases/adverbs may move where natural. Check meaning and punctuation.

Accept correct full forms and contractions in personal answers.

Check question word order, capitals and question marks in B.