



12. When she opened the door, she \_\_\_\_ that someone had broken in.  
a) had noticed  
b) notices  
c) noticed  
d) was noticing
13. While the teacher \_\_\_\_ the lesson, some students were chatting.  
a) had explained  
b) explains  
c) has explained  
d) was explaining
14. He didn't realise his wallet was missing until he \_\_\_\_ at the shop.  
a) arrived  
b) has arrived  
c) arrives  
d) was arriving
15. I'll call you when I \_\_\_\_ at the airport tomorrow.  
a) will arrive  
b) arrive  
c) was arriving  
d) arrived
16. By the time she got to the station, the train \_\_\_\_.  
a) was leaving  
b) has left  
c) had left  
d) leaves
17. Before the internet \_\_\_\_, people used encyclopedias for research.  
a) was existing  
b) existed  
c) exists  
d) had existed
18. She \_\_\_\_ the door as soon as she heard the noise.  
a) had locked  
b) locks  
c) locked  
d) was locking
19. I won't go to bed \_\_\_\_ my daughter comes home.  
a) while  
b) after  
c) when  
d) until
20. After he \_\_\_\_ from university, he found a job immediately.  
a) graduated  
b) has graduated  
c) graduates  
d) was graduating



## Answers

1. c) got
2. a) were playing
3. d) had already started
4. b) rang
5. d) left
6. c) were having
7. a) had escaped
8. b) was driving
9. b) had left
10. d) rang
11. a) had finished
12. c) noticed
13. d) was explaining
14. a) arrived
15. b) arrive
16. c) had left
17. b) existed
18. c) locked
19. d) until
20. a) graduated



# Explanations

## 1. “got” (c)

'When' + past simple describes a short completed action that happened during an ongoing action (past continuous). 'When I got home, my family was having dinner.'

## 2. “were playing” (a)

After 'while' in past time clauses, use past continuous to show an action was in progress. 'While the children were playing, their parents prepared dinner.'

## 3. “had already started” (d)

'By the time' + past simple in the time clause requires past perfect in the main clause to show the earlier action. The film started before we arrived.

## 4. “rang” (b)

'When' + past simple describes a short action that interrupted an ongoing action (past continuous 'was reading'). 'The phone rang' is the interrupting event.

## 5. “left” (d)

After 'before' in past time clauses, past simple is used. The word 'always' shows this was a habitual past action.

## 6. “were having” (c)

Past continuous 'were having' describes an action in progress that was interrupted by the doorbell (past simple). 'They were having dinner when the doorbell rang.'

## 7. “had escaped” (a)

Past perfect 'had escaped' shows the escape was complete before the police arrival. The main clause uses past perfect for the earlier action; the time clause with 'before' uses past simple for the later action.

## 8. “was driving” (b)

'While' + past continuous describes a longer action in progress. The past simple 'saw' describes a shorter action during that time.

## 9. “had left” (b)

'Until' + past perfect shows that the leaving was complete before she spoke. She waited for everyone to leave first, then spoke.

## 10. “rang” (d)

'As soon as' + past simple describes an immediate sequence of past events. The bell rang, and the students rushed out straight away.

## 11. “had finished” (a)

Past perfect 'had finished' before 'before' + past simple shows the earlier action was completed. Breakfast was finished before leaving.

## 12. “noticed” (c)

Past simple 'noticed' describes what happened at the moment of opening the door. 'Notice' is a stative verb and is rarely used in the continuous form.

## 13. “was explaining” (d)

'While' + past continuous shows two simultaneous ongoing actions. The teacher was explaining and the students were chatting at the same time.

**14. “arrived” (a)**

'Until' + past simple marks the moment of realisation. He only noticed the missing wallet at the point of arriving at the shop.

**15. “arrive” (b)**

This is a future time clause — use present simple after 'when', not past tense or 'will'. The word 'tomorrow' confirms the future reference.

**16. “had left” (c)**

'By the time' + past simple requires past perfect in the main clause. The train left (earlier) before she arrived (later).

**17. “existed” (b)**

'Before' + past simple describes a past time period. 'Exist' is a stative verb and is rarely used in the continuous form.

**18. “locked” (c)**

Past simple 'locked' describes an immediate reaction to the noise. 'As soon as' + past simple shows the two actions happened in quick sequence.

**19. “until” (d)**

'Until' means 'up to the time that'. The negative main clause + 'until' means 'I will stay awake up to the moment my daughter comes home'. 'When' or 'after' would change the meaning.

**20. “graduated” (a)**

Past simple 'graduated' after 'after' describes a completed past action. 'After he graduated from university, he found a job immediately.'