



## Past Continuous: Interrupted Actions with "when"

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I \_\_\_\_ (have) a shower when the doorbell rang.  
a) had  
b) was having  
c) have  
d) were having
- She was cooking dinner when the lights \_\_\_\_ (go) out.  
a) were going  
b) was going  
c) go  
d) went
- They \_\_\_\_ (watch) TV when they heard a loud noise.  
a) was watching  
b) watched  
c) were watching  
d) watch
- He was driving home when he \_\_\_\_ (see) the accident.  
a) was seeing  
b) saw  
c) see  
d) were seeing
- We \_\_\_\_ (walk) in the park when it started to rain.  
a) walked  
b) was walking  
c) were walking  
d) walk
- The baby was sleeping when the dog \_\_\_\_ (bark).  
a) barked  
b) were barking  
c) bark  
d) was barking
- I \_\_\_\_ (read) a book when my friend called me.  
a) am reading  
b) read  
c) were reading  
d) was reading
- She was talking on the phone when someone \_\_\_\_ (knock) on the door.  
a) knocked  
b) were knocking  
c) knock  
d) was knocking
- The students \_\_\_\_ (take) an exam when the fire alarm went off.  
a) were taking  
b) was taking  
c) take  
d) took
- He was running in the park when he \_\_\_\_ (fall) down.  
a) were falling  
b) fall  
c) was falling  
d) fell
- I \_\_\_\_ (sleep) peacefully when the earthquake happened.  
a) slept  
b) were sleeping  
c) was sleeping  
d) sleep





## Answers

1. b) was having
2. d) went
3. c) were watching
4. b) saw
5. c) were walking
6. a) barked
7. d) was reading
8. a) knocked
9. a) were taking
10. d) fell
11. c) was sleeping
12. b) stopped
13. b) was working
14. a) arrived
15. d) was sleeping
16. a) rang
17. c) was waiting
18. b) exploded
19. a) were playing
20. c) almost hit



# Explanations

**1. “was having” (b)**

Use Past Continuous for the longer action that was interrupted. 'rang' (Past Simple) is the interruption.

**2. “went” (d)**

Use Past Simple for the action that interrupted. 'was cooking' is the longer action.

**3. “were watching” (c)**

Use Past Continuous for the background action. 'heard' (Past Simple) is the sudden interruption.

**4. “saw” (b)**

Use Past Simple for the sudden action. 'was driving' is the ongoing action.

**5. “were walking” (c)**

Use Past Continuous for the longer action. 'started' (Past Simple) is the interruption.

**6. “barked” (a)**

Use Past Simple for the sudden action that interrupted the baby's sleep.

**7. “was reading” (d)**

Use Past Continuous for the action in progress. The phone call interrupted.

**8. “knocked” (a)**

Use Past Simple for the interrupting action. 'was talking' is the ongoing action.

**9. “were taking” (a)**

Use Past Continuous for the longer action (the exam). The fire alarm interrupted.

**10. “fell” (d)**

Use Past Simple for the sudden action. Falling interrupted his running.

**11. “was sleeping” (c)**

Use Past Continuous for the ongoing action. The earthquake was the interruption.

**12. “stopped” (b)**

Use Past Simple for the action that ended the dancing.

**13. “was working” (b)**

Use Past Continuous for the action in progress when the power cut occurred.

**14. “arrived” (a)**

Use Past Simple for the sudden arrival that interrupted the meal.

**15. “was sleeping” (d)**

Use Past Continuous for the cat's ongoing action. The children's arrival interrupted.

**16. “rang” (a)**

Use Past Simple for the interruption. 'was explaining' is the longer action.

**17. “was waiting” (c)**

Use Past Continuous for the background action. Meeting the teacher was the interruption.

**18. “exploded” (b)**

Use Past Simple for the sudden dramatic event.

**19. “were playing” (a)**

Use Past Continuous for the ongoing game. The rain interrupted it.

**20. “almost hit” (c)**

Use Past Simple for the sudden near-miss event.