



Past Continuous: Parallel Actions with "while"

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- While I ____ (cook), my sister was setting the table.
a) cooked
b) was cooking
c) were cooking
d) cook
- While the children were playing, their parents ____ (talk).
a) was talking
b) were talking
c) talk
d) talked
- She was reading a book while he ____ (watch) TV.
a) were watching
b) watch
c) watched
d) was watching
- While we ____ (drive), the kids were sleeping in the back.
a) was driving
b) were driving
c) drove
d) drive
- The dog was barking while the cat ____ (hide) under the bed.
a) was hiding
b) hid
c) hide
d) were hiding
- While Tom ____ (study), his roommate was playing video games.
a) was studying
b) study
c) were studying
d) studied
- I was listening to music while I ____ (exercise).
a) was exercising
b) exercise
c) exercised
d) were exercising
- While she ____ (work) from home, her husband was taking care of the baby.
a) was working
b) work
c) worked
d) were working
- The teacher was explaining the lesson while the students ____ (take) notes.
a) take
b) took
c) was taking
d) were taking
- While we ____ (wait) for the train, we were chatting about our plans.
a) was waiting
b) waited
c) were waiting
d) wait
- He was typing on his laptop while she ____ (talk) on the phone.
a) talked
b) were talking
c) was talking
d) talk



Answers

1. b) was cooking
2. b) were talking
3. d) was watching
4. b) were driving
5. a) was hiding
6. a) was studying
7. a) was exercising
8. a) was working
9. d) were taking
10. c) were waiting
11. c) was talking
12. a) was shining
13. d) were dancing
14. d) was cleaning
15. c) was playing
16. b) were arriving
17. b) was serving
18. d) was reading
19. c) was rumbling
20. d) was writing



Explanations

1. “was cooking” (b)

Both actions were happening at the same time. Use Past Continuous for parallel actions.

2. “were talking” (b)

Both actions were happening simultaneously. Use Past Continuous for both.

3. “was watching” (d)

Two parallel actions: she was reading AND he was watching TV at the same time.

4. “were driving” (b)

Both actions were ongoing at the same time during the journey.

5. “was hiding” (a)

Both actions were happening simultaneously: barking and hiding.

6. “was studying” (a)

Two parallel actions happening at the same time in the room.

7. “was exercising” (a)

Both actions were happening at the same time: listening AND exercising.

8. “was working” (a)

Two parallel actions happening simultaneously at home.

9. “were taking” (d)

Both actions were ongoing at the same time in the classroom.

10. “were waiting” (c)

Both actions happened simultaneously while at the station.

11. “was talking” (c)

Two parallel activities happening at the same time.

12. “was shining” (a)

Both describe background conditions happening at the same time.

13. “were dancing” (d)

Parallel actions at a party or event: playing and dancing.

14. “was cleaning” (d)

Both were cleaning different rooms at the same time.

15. “was playing” (c)

Both actions were happening simultaneously: singing and playing.

16. “were arriving” (b)

Both actions were in progress: guests arriving, hosts preparing.

17. “was serving” (b)

Parallel actions in a restaurant: cooking and serving.

18. “was reading” (d)

Two parallel morning activities happening at the same time.

19. “was rumbling” (c)

Both weather events were happening simultaneously.

20. “was writing” (d)

Parallel work activities: writing and checking at the same time.