



# Past Simple vs. Past Continuous

**Choose the correct verb tense (past simple or past continuous).**

1. While they \_\_\_\_\_ dinner, the phone suddenly \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) cooked / ringed  
b) were cooking / rang  
c) cooked / was ringing
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ a book when the power \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) was reading / goes out  
b) read / was going out  
c) was reading / went out
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ his car when the accident \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) drove / happened  
b) was driving / happened  
c) were driving / was happening
4. When their parents \_\_\_\_\_ the kids \_\_\_\_\_ happily  
a) arriving / played  
b) arrived / were playing  
c) were arriving / played

5. She \_\_\_\_\_ her favorite song while she \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) sang / was cooking
  - b) was singed / cooking
  - c) sang / cooked
6. The students \_\_\_\_\_ quietly when the teacher suddenly \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) was studying / shouted
  - b) were studying / shouted
  - c) studied / was shouting
7. Someone \_\_\_\_\_ at the door while they \_\_\_\_\_ a movie.
- a) knocked / watched
  - b) knocked / were watching
  - c) was knocking / watched
8. He \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden when it \_\_\_\_\_ to rain.
- a) worked / was starting
  - b) were working / was starting
  - c) was working / started
9. She \_\_\_\_\_ her bike when lightning \_\_\_\_\_ the house.
- a) rides / was striking
  - b) was riding / struck
  - c) was riding / was striking
10. They \_\_\_\_\_ their bags when the bus \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) packed / arrives
  - b) packed / was arriving
  - c) were packing / arrived

## Answers

1. b) were cooking / rang
2. c) was reading / went out
3. b) was driving / happened
4. b) arrived / were playing
5. a) sang / was cooking
6. b) were studying / shouted
7. b) knocked / were watching
8. c) was working / started
9. b) was riding / struck
10. c) were packing / arrived