

Past Simple or Past Continuous?

Choose the past simple or past continuous.

1. He _____ (sleep) when the doorbell
_____ (ring).
2. We _____ (eat) dinner at 8pm last night (we started eating at
7:30).
3. Yesterday I _____ (go) to the post office,
_____ (buy) some fruit at the supermarket and
_____ (read) a book in the park in the afternoon.
4. We _____ (watch) TV when we
_____ (hear) a loud noise.
5. Julie _____ (be) in the garden when Laurence
_____ (arrive).
6. A: What _____ (you / do) at 3pm yesterday?
B: I _____ (clean) my house.
7. Last year I _____ (visit) Paris and Rome.
8. They _____ (have) dinner when the police
_____ (come) to the door.
9. He _____ (work) in the garden when he
_____ (find) the money.
10. Laura _____ (study) at 11pm last night.
11. I _____ (walk) along the road when I
_____ (meet) an old friend.
12. It _____ (be) a day in December. Snow
_____ (fall), children _____ (sing)
carols and people _____ (do) their Christmas shopping.
13. My ex-boyfriend _____ (be) so annoying! He
_____ (always / miss) the bus and
_____ (arrive) late.
14. When I _____ (call) Julie, she
_____ (work).

15. Why _____ (you / cry) when I
_____ (arrive)?
16. When he _____ (get) home, we started to eat dinner.
17. At 10am yesterday I _____ (sit) on a bus.
18. I _____ (enjoy) my book so much that I
_____ (not / notice) the train had stopped.
19. David _____ (not / sleep) when I
_____ (arrive), he _____ (study)!
20. Mr Black _____ (not / work) in the garden at 10pm last night.

Answers

1. He was sleeping when the telephone rang.
2. We were eating dinner at 8pm last night.
3. Yesterday I went to the post office, bought some fruit at the supermarket and read a book in the park in the afternoon.
4. We were watching TV when we heard a loud noise.
5. Julie was in the garden when Laurence arrived.
6. A: What were you doing at 3pm yesterday?
B: I was cleaning my house.
7. Last year I visited Paris and Rome.
8. They were having dinner when the police arrived.
9. He was working in the garden when he found the money.
10. Laura was studying at 11pm last night.
11. I was walking along the road when I met an old friend.
12. It was a beautiful day. The birds were singing and the sun was shining.
13. My old flatmate was so annoying! She was always leaving dirty plates everywhere.
14. When I called Julie, she was working.
15. Why were you crying when I arrived?
16. When he arrived, we started to eat dinner.
17. At 10am yesterday I was sitting on a bus.
18. What were you doing when she called?
19. I wasn't sleeping when he arrived, I was studying!
20. Mr Black wasn't working in the garden at 10pm last night.