Unità

22

Past continuous e past simple, when e while
It was raining when we set off. I was watching TV when you phoned.

A Uso

Le differenze principali tra il past continuous e il past simple sono:

i Il past continuous si usa per esprimere qualcosa che avveniva in un tempo passato. Il past simple si usa per esprimere avvenimenti finiti o situazioni che appartengono al passato.

I was having lunch at 1.30. Stavo pranzando all'1.30.
I had pasta for lunch. Ho mangiato della pasta a pranzo.

ii Il past continuous e il past simple si possono usare insieme per esprimere un'azione avvenuta nel passato mentre un'altra era in corso di svolgimento.

I fell asleep while I was watching TV last night.
Mi addormentai mentre stavo guardando la TV ieri sera.

It was raining. We were driving down a dark country lane when suddenly the car in front of us stopped.
Stava piovendo. Stavamo guidando lungo un viottolo buio di campagna quando la macchina davanti a noi si fermò.

B When e while

i Si usano when (quando) o while (mentre) per collegare le frasi al past continuous e al past simple. When può essere usato prima del past continuous o del past simple, mentre while può essere usato solo prima del past continuous.

They met when he was working at the university.
We were eating when he arrived.
I saw Fred while I was out jogging.

ii Nota che la frase subordinata introdotta da when o while può trovarsi di norma o all'inizio del periodo o in seconda posizione, cioè dopo la frase principale. Quando si mette all'inizio del periodo, si separa dalla frase principale con una virgola.

When it started raining, we were playing tennis.
We were playing tennis when it started raining.

> Vedi unità 21 per altre regole sul past continuous e vedi unità 16 e 17 per altri usi del past simple.
1 Scegli l'alternativa corretta nei seguenti testi.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Past Simple</th>
<th>Past Continuous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>took</td>
<td>was taking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organized</td>
<td>were organizing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ran</td>
<td>were running</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walked</td>
<td>was already walking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Titanic *sailed / was sailing* from Southampton to New York when it *hit / was hitting* the iceberg at 11.40 pm on 14th April 1912. The ship *carried / was carrying* 2,224 passengers. Only 711 *survived / were surviving*.

but lucky lottery winner Jim Jones's wife was more interested in her favourite TV show than in their good fortune. Mr Jones explains: 'I *listened / was listening* to the radio in the kitchen when they *announced / were announcing* the winning numbers. I *ran / was running* to tell my wife, but she *watched / was watching* TV at the time and she just *told / was telling* me to be quiet. It was only after I *shouted / was shouting* "I don't believe it, fifty million euros" for the tenth time, that she finally *realized / was realizing* what I *said / was saying*.'

2 Completa le frasi con i verbi in corsivo. Usa il tempo corretto: il past simple o il past continuous.

0 I *fell / was falling* asleep while I *was watching* TV last night. *fall, watch*
1 Ron *ran / was running* his leg while he *break, play*
2 I *ran / was running* to the park when it *rained, We*

refuge in the café. *walk, start, take*
4 My parents *married six months later. meet, teach, get*

when they *married six months later. meet, teach, get*
in the same school. They

5 Yesterday, I *ate / was eating* a coffee in the café on the High Street when Kate and Dave suddenly *saw, go* at my table! And they *sat, sit down, down, not pay, leave*

for their
drinks when they *have, appear, sit down, not pay, leave*

3 Completa l'articolo di giornale con il past simple o il past continuous dei verbi tra parentesi.

**The Beatles**

In July 1957, 15-year-old Paul McCartney *went / went to* a garden fete at St Peter's Church in Liverpool. John Lennon *went / went to* the event with his band *played / played* at the Quarry Men. Paul *met / met* for a band to join *look for* at the time and a mutual friend *introduced / introduced* him to John. Soon after, John *invited / invited Paul to join the Quarry Men. On October 18th 1957, John Lennon and Paul McCartney first *played / played together live. Later, John *look for* another guitarist and Paul *suggested / suggested an old school friend, George Harrison. George* (join the band in the summer of 1958. After several name changes, including Johnny and the Moondogs and Long John and the Beatles they finally *became / became the Beatles in 1960. At first, the band mainly *played / played American rock 'n' roll covers, but they soon*

*begin / begin to write their own songs and by the early 1960s they*

*perform / perform mostly original material. The line-up of the 'Fab Four' was complete when*

Ringo Starr *replaced / replaced the original drummer, Pete Best, in 1962. In the same year, they*

*release / released their first single Love Me Do and 'Beatlemania' was born.*

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