

PASADO SIMPLE/PASADO CONTINUO

El **pasado continuo (past continuous)** expresa la duración de una acción pasada y no indica si está terminada, mientras que el **pasado simple (past simple)** se refiere a una acción puntual que empezó y acabó en el pasado.

I **worked** last Saturday.

Trabajé el sábado pasado.

It **was snowing** at half past four yesterday.

Estaba nevando a las cuatro y media ayer (no había acabado).

Las diferencias del pasado simple y pasado continuo

1 El pasado simple describe *acciones acabadas* y el pasado continuo no especifica si las acciones finalizaron o no, sino que *enfatiza que estaban en desarrollo*.

He **travelled** around the world.

Viajó por todo el mundo.

I **was travelling** around the world.

Estaba viajando por todo el mundo.

2 Para acciones *simultáneas*.

2.a. Si las acciones son consecutivas, los verbos irán en pasado simple.

As I **saw** her I left the room.

Cuando la ví dejé la habitación.

2.b. Cuando hay un pasado simple y uno continuo este último *resalta la duración de la acción*.

As I **was watching** tv the telephone rang.

Cuando estaba viendo la tele sonó el teléfono.

2.c. Si las dos acciones tienen lugar durante *un mismo periodo de tiempo* se usará el pasado continuo en las dos.

As **I was having** dinner, she was watching tv.

Cuando estaba cenando ella estaba viendo la tv.

3 Para hablar de *acciones habituales* se suele usar el pasado simple.

She **visited** her parents every day.

4 En narraciones o historias se usa el pasado continuo para *describir o ambientar una acción*.

He **was walking** quickly. He was not wearing his glasses. Suddenly he fell...

Estaba andando rápido. No llevaba sus gafas. De pronto se cayó...

The Prime Minister **died** while he was sitting at his desk.

El Primer Ministro murió mientras estaba sentado en su mesa.

Mando video explicativo de los usos del pasado simple y continuo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15cw9TysJDM>

EXERCISES

1. Choose the correct answer

1 When Peter arrived I _____ a programme about deserts.

- were watching
- was watching
- watch

2 You _____ in the park when you _____ her.

- walked / were meeting

- walked / didn't met
- were walking / met

3 My friends _____ me they _____ stop laughing at Tom's jokes the other night.

- told / weren't
- told / couldn't
- tolded / couldn't

4 _____ your mum _____ last Thursday?

- Did / was working
- Was working / during
- Was / working

5 Dorothy _____ when I arrived. She was so tired.

- was sleeping
- sleep
- slept

6 _____ a strange object outside. It _____ a lot of noise.

- There was / was making
- There were being / maked

There're / was making

7 What movie _____ you _____ at the cinema last weekend?

did / watch

was / watching

did / watched

8 My friends _____ to leave, so I _____ to call a cab. I was working early this morning.

weren't going / decided

decide not going / wasn't

didn't go / decide

9 Look! You _____ an amazing photograh!

was taking

were tooaking

took

10 He _____ me all the day and I finally _____ him.

was texting / phoned

texted / was phoning

was texting / was phoning

2. Elige la mejor respuesta, según las opciones de respuesta múltiple del ejercicio.

1. When I arrived at the office, John _____.
a. worked b. is working c. was working
2. When the telephone rang, _____?
a. are you sleeping? b. did you sleep c. were you sleeping?
3. While I _____ to work, I saw an accident
a. walked b. am walking c. was walking
4. At this time yesterday, what _____?
a. what are you doing? b. what were you doing? c. what do you do?
5. At 8 o'clock yesterday morning, _____?
a. are you eating breakfast? b. did you eat breakfast? c. were you eating breakfast?
6. While I was doing the dishes, I _____ a noise outside.
a. was hearing b. heard c. am hearing
7. When the teacher discussed the math problems, I _____ anything.
a. didn't understand b. wasn't understanding c. am not understanding
8. This time last Friday _____?
a. what did you do? b. what were you doing? c. what are you doing?
9. I _____ dinner when someone called.
a. am having b. was having c. were having
10. Joe _____ what she said yesterday.
a. wasn't believing b. didn't believe c. am not believing

3. Utiliza el verbo entre paréntesis para así completar la frase en el tiempo de pasado adecuado.

1. The children _____ (wait) for the school bus when it _____ (start) raining.
2. What _____ you _____ (do) at this time last winter?
3. My officemates _____ (drink) coffee when I _____ (arrive).
4. My family _____ (eat) dinner when she _____ (call).
5. Maria _____ (read) a book while Joseph _____ (listen) to music.
6. At this time yesterday, we _____ (play) basketball in the gym.
7. When our friends _____ (come), we _____ (prepare) our dinner.
8. John _____ (work) at this time yesterday.
9. I _____ (write) my diary when I _____ (get) a message.
10. I _____ (study) when my mother _____ (arrive) home.
11. At 4 pm yesterday, we _____ (study) for our math exams.
12. The police _____ (chase) after the robber when they _____ (hear) a gunshot.

SOLUCIONES

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4 ____ your mum ____ last Thursday?

Was / working

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2. Elige la mejor respuesta, según las opciones de respuesta múltiple del ejercicio.

1 c, 2 c, 3 c, 4 b, 5 c, 6 b, 7 a, 8 b, 9 b, 10 b

3. Utiliza el verbo entre paréntesis para así completar la frase en el tiempo de pasado adecuado.

1 were waiting/started, 2 were doing, 3 were drinking/arrived, 4 was eating/called, 5 was reading/was listening, 6 were playing, 7 came/were preparing, 8 was working, 9 was writing/got, 10 was studying/arrived, 11 were studying, 12 were chasing/heard