



Basic

English Grammar Practice Tests **with key**

Past Simple and Past Continuous

Level A1-A2

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Introduction and Imprint

This is a complete set of English grammar practice tests. It contains **Test 1 & 2 with key**. The tests correspond to the **A1 - A2** language proficiency level according to the [CEFR](#).

The content is meant for **English as a foreign language** learners. It can be used for testing and as consolidation material.

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Unedited version

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Level A1-A2

Past Simple and Past Continuous

Test 1

1. Complete the sentences with the *past simple* or *past continuous*.

1. John _____ (read) the book when the phone _____ (ring).
2. It was 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The children _____ (watch) TV.
3. I _____ (see) Sue at the train station last Friday. She _____ (wait) for her friend.
4. My sister and I _____ (not / finish) our house chores yesterday.
5. We _____ (enter) the room, _____ (look) around and

Mark: ___ / 18

2. Choose the correct item.

1. Jack **closed** / **was closing** the window because it was cold.
2. While the president **introduced** / **was introducing** the general to the first lady, she yawned.
3. At 3 o'clock yesterday I **sewed** / **was sewing** my jacket.
4. Was she **sitting** / **siting** by the tree during her tea break?
5. The boy **lost** / **was losing** his shoe in the park two days ago.

Mark: ___ / 12

3. Complete the questions and negative sentences using the *past simple* or *past continuous*.

1. How fast _____ (you / drive) when you hit the pedestrian?
2. _____ (Alexander Bell / invent) the phone in 1876?
3. _____ (the burglar / climb) in through the window when the family was sleeping? – No, he didn't.
4. Ella _____ (not / paint) at 4:35 last afternoon.
5. Three days ago Christopher and his wife _____ (not / complain) about the room.

Mark: ___ / 10

4. Fill in the gaps with the *past simple* or *past continuous*.

Cinderella's mother 1) _____ (die) when she was 19. She 2) _____ (play) with her dog outside her family's chateau when the sad news 3) _____ (arrive). Soon after her father 4) _____ (marry) another woman who 5) _____ (become) a cruel stepmother to her. She 6) _____ (not / love) the girl and 7) _____ (make) her a maid. From that time on Cinderella 8) _____ (do) all hard work at home.

One day, when she 9) _____ (prepare) breakfast for her new family, she 10) _____ (receive) an invitation to the royal ball. She was very happy. Her stepsisters 11) _____ (go) to the ball too. They 12) _____ (want) Cinderella to

Mark: ___ / 22

Total: ___ / 62

Test 1. Key

1.

1. **was reading, rang** (Long action that was interrupted by a short action in the past)
2. **were watching** (Long action that was taking place at a certain time in the past)
3. **saw; was waiting** (Action that took place at a definite time in the past; Long action that was taking place at a certain time in the past, the time is implied in the context)
4. **didn't / did not finish** (Action that was not completed at a definite time in the past)
5. **entered, looked, opened** (Actions that took place one after the other in the past)

2.

1. **closed** (Completed past action)
2. **was introducing** (Long action that was interrupted by a short action in the past)
3. **was sewing** (Long action that was taking place at a certain time in the past)
4. **Was she sitting** (Doubled consonant as the base verb ends in a consonant preceded by a stressed vowel)
5. **lost** (Action that took place at a definite time in the past)

3.

1. **were you driving** (Special question that refers to a long action interrupted by a short action)
2. **Did Alexander Bell invent** (General question if an action took place at a definite time in the past)
3. **Did the burglar climb** (General question if a short action took place in the past interrupting a long action)
4. **was not / wasn't painting** (Action that was not taking place at a certain time in the past)

5. **did not / didn't complain** (Action that did not take place at a definite time in the past)

4.

1. **died** (Action that took place at a definite time in the past)
2. **was playing** (Long action that was interrupted by a short action)
3. **arrived** (Short action that interrupted a long action)
4. **married** (Action that took place after another past action)
5. **became** (Action that took place after another past action)
6. **did not / didn't love** (Use of a state verb in the past, negative form)
7. **made** (Action that took place after another past action)
8. **did / used to do** (Habit or state in the past)
9. **was preparing** (Long action that was interrupted by a short action)
10. **received** (Short action that interrupted a long action)
11. **were going** (Plans or intentions in the past)