

Complete the sentences for situations in the past.

1. A plumber (*come*) to our house yesterday.

2. He (*want*) to repair our washing machine that (*break*) a few days before.

3. Before he (*ring*) at my door, he (*look*) for a parking space for about ten minutes.

4. While the plumber (*repair*) the washing machine, I (*watch*) the news.

5. Suddenly, I (*realize*) that they (*show*) our street on TV.

6. The reporter (*say*) that a car (*crash*) into a stop sign just before reaching the crossroads.

7. While I (*listen*) carefully to what (*happen*) , someone (*knock*) at my door.

8. I (*open*) the door and (*see*) a police officer standing there.

9. He (*ask*) for the plumber.

10. In his haste, the plumber (*forget*) to put the handbrake on.

Choose the correct helping verb to frame the past tense:

1. My brother and sister _____ playing tennis at 11am yesterday.

are

was

were

2. _____ you still working at 7pm last night?

Were

Are

Was

3. At 8.30am today I _____ driving to work.

was

am

were

4. We _____ sleeping when the police came.

was

weren't

won't

5. Why _____ he having lunch at 4pm?

- was
 - does
 - were
6. Was he not _____ his homework?
- doing
 - do
 - done
7. Snow _____ lightly. Suddenly a reindeer appeared.
- fell
 - was falling
 - is falling
8. Somebody threw a shoe at him _____ he was speaking.
- after
 - when
 - while
9. They _____ TV when I arrived.
- were watching
 - were watched
 - watched
10. I was reading a detective story _____ I heard a noise.
- during
 - while
 - when

Fill the sentences with the past continuous tense:

1. The children _____ outside.

- were playing
- was playing

2. The dog _____ at us.

- were barking
- was barking

3. My teacher _____ the exercise to me.

- was explaining
- were explaining

4. I _____ to my mp3 player.

- were listening
- was listening

5. Those people _____ towards the library.

- were walking
- was walking

6. The cook _____ a tasty meal.

- were preparing
- was preparing

7. I _____ to fix my computer.

- were trying
- was trying

8. My friend and I _____ basketball.

- was playing
- were playing

9. The police _____ the thief.

- were chasing
- was chasing

10. My sister and my brother _____.

- was singing
- were singing

Answers for the first exercise:

1. came

2. wanted, broke

3. rang, looked

4. repaired, watched

5. realized, showed
6. said, crashed
7. listened, happened, knocked
8. opened, saw
9. asked
10. forgot

Answers for the second exercise:

1. was
2. were
3. was
4. weren't
5. was
6. doing
7. fell
8. when
9. were watching
10. when

Answers for the third exercise:

1. were playing
2. was barking
3. was explaining
4. was listening
5. were walking
6. was preparing
7. was trying
8. were playing
9. was chasing
10. were singing