

## Past Simple vs. Past Continuous Exercise One

### Part One

Take a look at the six pairs of verbs below. I want you to decide which of the two verbs probably took a longer time and write “L” for “longer” next to it. If we needed to make a past tense sentence using the two verbs, this longer verb would probably be expressed in past continuous.

You should also decide which verb probably happened quickly or finished during that time; write “S” for “shorter” next to it. If we needed to make a past tense sentence using these two verbs, this shorter verb would probably be expressed using past simple.

### Which verb took longer (L), and which one was shorter (S)?

1) Run, fall down

run: \_\_\_\_\_

fall down: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Walk, meet a friend

walk: \_\_\_\_\_

meet a friend: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Drop your phone, talk on the phone

drop your phone: \_\_\_\_\_      talk on the phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Hurt my knee, play soccer

hurt my knee: \_\_\_\_\_

play soccer: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Cook dinner, my phone rings

cook dinner: \_\_\_\_\_

my phone rings: \_\_\_\_\_

6) Travel in Europe, get sick

travel in Europe: \_\_\_\_\_      get sick: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Two:**

Now, try this exercise. Using the verbs from the six pairs above, write these as full sentences which contain both past simple and past continuous.

1. When the boy (run) in the rain, he (fall down).

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2. Emilie (walk) to work when she (meet) an old friend.

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3. You (talk) on the phone when you accidentally (drop) it!

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4. I (hurt) my knee when I (play) soccer with my friends last week.

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5. My phone (ring) when I (cook) dinner.

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6. Matsuko unfortunately (get) quite sick when we (travel) in Europe together last summer.

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## Past Simple vs. Past Continuous Exercise One: Answer Key

### Part One

Which verb took longer “L” and which one was shorter “S”?

1) Run, fall down

run: L

fall down: S

2) Walk, meet a friend

walk: L

meet a friend: S

3) Drop your phone, talk on the phone

drop your phone: S

talk on the phone: L

4) Hurt my knee, play soccer

hurt my knee: S

play soccer: L

5) Cook dinner, my phone rings

cook dinner: L

my phone rings: S

6) Travel in Europe, get sick

travel in Europe: L

get sick: S

### Part Two:

1. When the boy **was running** in the rain, he **fell** down.
2. Emilie **was walking** to work when she **met** an old friend.
3. You **were talking** on the phone when you accidentally **dropped** it!
4. I **hurt** my knee when I **was playing** soccer with my friends last week.
5. My phone **rang** when I **was cooking** dinner.
6. Matsuko unfortunately **got** quite sick when we **were travelling** in Europe together last summer.