THE PAST SIMPLE AND THE PAST CONTINUOUS

**1.a ¿Cuáles de estas acciones calificarías como largas, teniendo en cuenta el tiempo que toman para llevarse a cabo? Marcalas como LA (Long Action)**

**1.b ¿A cuáles las calificarías como acciones cortas? Marcalas como SA (Short Action)**

1. The program was running.
2. The computer crashed
3. The lights went out
4. I was working on my computer.
5. The screen went black.
6. Jerry was shopping online.
7. Franco and Alex were updating the platform.
8. The system crashed.
9. The programmers were writing new code.
10. The computer stopped working.

**1.b Match a short action with a long one and when or while to make; or match two long actions with while, to make sentences. Make all possible combinations**

**Examples:** *The program was running* ***when*** *the computer crashed.*

*While the program was running, Franco and Alex were updating the platform*

**2. Look at the sentences below and say which was the action in progress and which one interrupted it:**

1. The program was runningwhen the computer crashed.

Action in progress:

Action that interrupted it:

1. The screen went black while the programmers were writing the new code**.**

Action in progress:

Action that interrupted it:

1. I was shopping online when my keyboard froze and my screen got black.

Action in progress:

Action that interrupted it:

**3. Complete the sentences with a subject + a short action (past simple). Use the verb in brackets.**

**Example:** I was downloading a file when … (crash)

I was downloading a file when the screen went black.

a. While the program was running, … (it freeze)

b. My mum was watching TV when… (go out)

c. When … (arrive home), my brother was playing online games.

d. While the teacher was teaching, … (her telephone ring)

e. When … (go black), I was watching a video.

**4. Complete the sentences with a subject + a long action (past continuous). Use the verb in brackets.**

**Example:** ... (download) a file when the system crashed.

I was downloading a file when the system crashed

1. We broke a window while … (play) football.
2. While … (do) the exam, the lights went out.
3. When the teacher entered the classroom, … (use) the digital whiteboard.
4. I had an accident when … (go) home.
5. The teacher’s mobile stopped working while … (play) an audio file.

**5. Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets**.

1. I …………………… (make) my dinner when I cut my finger.
2. Joe and Sam …………………… (not work) when the teacher entered the classroom.
3. While Paula…………………… (come) home from school, she saw an accident.
4. While my father …………………… (live) in Dublin, he wrote his first computer program.
5. I …………………… (send) a WhatsApp message when the teacher asked me a question.
6. Andrew …………………… (do) the English quiz when the digital classroom platform crashed
7. I …………………… (start) to do my homework when my friend sent me a message.

**6. Choose the correct options. Remember about short and long actions**  
1 I *do / was doing* the English homework when I *heard / was hearing* the car crash.  
2 When the teacher *said / was saying* ‘Stop!’, I *tried / was trying* to finish the last question.  
3 Tim *print/ was printing documents* when his boss *called / was calling* him.  
4 I *looked / was looking* for a file on my memory stick when I *noticed / was noticing* there was a virus.  
5 Ron *found / was finding* a really interesting games website while he looked / was looking for information for his homework.

6 My mum *had / was having coffee* when she *spilled / was spilling* it on the keyboard.

LOOK!

It is possible to invert the order of the sentences:

When the lights went out, I was printing a document.

I was printing a document when the lights went out.

7. Invert the order of the following sentences:

1. The program was running when the computer crashed.
2. We were not playing computer games when the teacher entered the classroom.
3. While the programmers were working on the database, the screen went black.
4. While I was troubleshooting the software, I found three bugs.
5. The students were working in the computer room when the lights went out.
6. The program was not running when I checked it.