Worksheet: Simple Past vs. Past Continuous

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions:

Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Choose between the simple past or past continuous tense. Remember the rules!

Rules Reminder:

- **Simple Past: Use for a completed action in the past. It often interrupts a longer action.**

- **Past Continuous: Use for a longer action that was in progress at a specific time in the past.**

Example:

- **I was cooking (longer action) when the phone rang (shorter, interrupting action).**

Practice Questions:

1. He _____ (watch) television when his mother _____ (arrive).

2. She _____ (study) all morning yesterday.

3. I _____ (walk) in the park when I _____ (see) my friend.

4. The sun _____ (shine) when we _____ (leave) the house.

5. He _____ (drive) his car when the rain _____ (start).

6. They _____ (talk) loudly while the movie _____ (play).

7. The students _____ (do) their homework when the fire alarm _____ (go off).

8. I _____ (not/eat) breakfast at 7 a.m.

9. She _____ (listen) to music when the baby _____ (cry).

10. We _____ (swim) in the lake when it _____ (get) cold.

11. He _____ (sleep) when you _____ (call) him.

12. They _____ (have) dinner when the lights _____ (go out).

13. I _____ (clean) my room all afternoon.

14. The teacher _____ (write) on the board when the bell _____ (ring).

15. He _____ (play) video games while his sister _____ (read) a book.

16. She _____ (not/pay) attention, so she _____ (miss) the question.

17. We _____ (cross) the street when the accident _____ (happen).

18. The dog _____ (bark) while I _____ (try) to sleep.

19. He _____ (not/hear) the phone because he _____ (take) a shower.

20. I _____ (wait) for the bus when I _____ (see) the accident.

21. The children _____ (play) in the garden all day yesterday.

22. She _____ (cook) lunch when the guests _____ (arrive).

23. They _____ (not/look) at the road, so they _____ (hit) the pole.

24. He _____ (talk) on the phone when the phone _____ (die).

25. We _____ (run) in the park when we _____ (find) a wallet.

Answer Key

1. was watching / arrived
2. was studying
3. was walking / saw
4. was shining / left
5. was driving / started
6. were talking / was playing
7. were doing / went off
8. wasn't eating
9. was listening / cried
10. were swimming / got
11. was sleeping / called
12. were having / went out
13. was cleaning
14. was writing / rang
15. was playing / was reading
16. wasn't paying / missed
17. were crossing / happened
18. was barking / was trying
19. didn't hear / was taking
20. was waiting / saw
21. were playing
22. was cooking / arrived
23. weren't looking / hit
24. was talking / died
25. were running / found