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Worksheet: Past Tense Time Clauses

Name: _____ Date: _____

Grammar Review

While: Used with the **Past Continuous** (was/were + -ing) for long background actions.

When: Used with the **Simple Past** for short actions or interruptions.

Before / After: Used to show the sequence of events.

As soon as: Used when one action happens immediately after another.

Part 1: Choosing the Right Conjunction

Fill in the blanks with **when**, **while**, **before**, or **after**. In some cases, more than one answer may be possible, but choose the most logical one.

I was washing the dishes _____ the phone rang.

_____ I was walking to school, I saw a beautiful rainbow.

Make sure you wash your hands _____ you eat your dinner.

_____ the sun went down, the temperature dropped quickly.

I brushed my teeth _____ I went to bed.

The power went out _____ we were watching a movie.

_____ I arrived at the station, the train had already left.

He listened to music _____ he was doing his homework.

_____ the bell rang, all the students ran out of the classroom.

I felt much better _____ I took the medicine.

Part 2: Verb Tense Practice

Complete the sentences by putting the verb in parentheses into the correct tense: **Simple Past** or **Past Continuous**.

While she _____ (study), her brother started playing loud music.

I _____ (see) an old friend while I was waiting for the bus.

When the teacher _____ (enter) the room, the students stopped talking.

They _____ (play) football when it started to rain.

After I _____ (finish) my breakfast, I went to work.

As soon as he _____ (hear) the news, he called his mother.

While the chef _____ (cook) dinner, he burned his finger.

Before I _____ (move) to this city, I lived in a small village.

What _____ you _____ (do) when the earthquake happened?

I _____ (not/hear) the doorbell because I was listening to loud music.

Part 3: Sentence Building

Combine the two sentences into one using the time word in parentheses. Remember to use correct punctuation (commas).

I was driving. I saw a deer on the road. (**while**)

I finished the book. I returned it to the library. (**after**)

The movie started. We turned off our phones. (**as soon as**)

I went to the supermarket. I made a shopping list. (**before**)

They were having a picnic. A dog stole their sandwich. (**when**)

Answer Key (For Teacher Use)

Part 1: Conjunctions

when

While

before

After / When

before

while

When

while

When / As soon as

after

Part 2: Verb Tenses 11. was studying 12. saw 13. entered 14. were playing 15. finished 16. heard 17. was cooking 18. moved
19. were (you) doing 20. did not hear (didn't hear)

Part 3: Sentence Building 21. While I was driving, I saw a deer on the road. (OR: I saw a deer on the road while I was driving.) 22. After I finished the book, I returned it to the library. (OR: I returned the book to the library after I finished it.) 23. As soon as the movie started, we turned off our phones. 24. Before I went to the supermarket, I made a shopping list. (OR: I made a shopping list before I went to the supermarket.) 25. They were having a picnic when a dog stole their sandwich. (OR: When a dog stole their sandwich, they were having a picnic.)