THE FLATMATES
Quiz: Past continuous & past simple – interrupted activities

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The Flatmates – Quiz – Past continuous and past simple – interrupted activities

For each of the six questions choose the one correct answer.

1. I... my purse while I...
   a. was losing / was shopping
   b. was losing / shopped
   c. lost / was shopping
   d. lost / shopped

2. Somebody... it while I...
   a. took / didn't look
   b. was taking / wasn't looking
   c. was taking / didn't look
   d. took / wasn't looking

3. I... about calling you, when suddenly the telephone...
   a. thought / rang
   b. thought / was ringing
   c. was thinking / was ringing
   d. was thinking / rang

4. When we... at the lecture, the professor...
   a. were arriving / was already talking
   b. were arriving / already talked
   c. arrived / already talked
   d. arrived / was already talking

5. Last night, as Jack... dinner, the lights... out. He had to finish cooking in the dark.
   a. was cooking / were going
   b. was cooking / went
   c. cooked / went
   d. cooked / were going

6. I... on my computer when it...
   a. worked / crashed
   b. worked / was crashing
   c. was working / crashed
   d. was working / was crashing
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Answers

1. I... my purse while I...
   a. was losing / was shopping – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past simple
   b. was losing / shopped – Wrong – think more carefully about which verb describes the activity, and which verb describes the interruption
   c. lost / was shopping – Correct – this describes an interrupted activity
d. lost / shopped – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past continuous

2. Somebody... it while I...
   a. took / didn't look - Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past continuous
   b. was taking / wasn't looking – Wrong – think more carefully about which verb describes the activity, and which verb describes the interruption
   c. was taking / didn't look – Wrong – think more carefully about which verb describes the activity, and which verb describes the interruption
d. took / wasn't looking – Correct – this describes an interrupted activity

3. I... about calling you, when suddenly the telephone...
   a. thought / rang – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past continuous
   b. thought / was ringing – Wrong – think more carefully about which verb describes the activity, and which verb describes the interruption
   c. was thinking / was ringing – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past simple
d. was thinking / rang – Correct – this describes an interrupted activity

4. When we... at the lecture, the professor...
   a. were arriving / was already talking – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past simple
   b. were arriving / already talked – Wrong – think more carefully about which verb describes the activity, and which verb describes the interruption
   c. arrived / already talked – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past continuous
d. arrived / was already talking – Correct – this describes an interrupted activity

5. Last night, as Jack... cooking dinner, the lights went out. He had to finish cooking in the dark.
   a. was cooking / was going – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past simple
   b. was cooking / went – Correct – this describes an interrupted activity
c. cooked / went – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past continuous
d. cooked / was going – Wrong – think more carefully about which verb describes the activity, and which verb describes the interruption
6. I... on my computer when it...
   a. worked / crashed – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past continuous
   b. worked / was crashing – Wrong – think more carefully about which verb describes
      the activity, and which verb describes the interruption
   c. was working / crashed – Correct – this describes an interrupted activity
   d. was working / was crashing – Wrong – one of the verbs should be in the past simple

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http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode70/languagepoint.shtml

Or you can download the language point from:
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