

THE FLATMATES

Quiz: Past continuous & past simple – interrupted activities



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LEARNING ENGLISH



BBC Learning English – The Flatmates

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

You can try the quiz online at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode70/quiz.shtml>

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 – one of the verbs should be in the past simple
 - 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

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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

Would you like to look at the language point that this quiz was based on? Go to:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode70/languagepoint.shtml>

Or you can download the language point from:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode70/languagepoint.pdf>

More quizzes on this topic:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/apps/iftl/worldservice/quiznet/quizengine?quiz=123_quiznet