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Basics. Past Simple and Past Continuous/Progressive Tenses.

Easy | A1 | Elementary | Beginners | A2 | Elementary | Pre-intermediate | Verb | Past tense | Progressive tense | Simple tense | Grammatical number | Negation | Questions | English Grammar Basics

1. Choose the correct verb form to complete the sentence.

The children _____ outside when it suddenly started to rain.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

- **A)** play
- **B)** played
- **C)** were playing
- **D)** are playing

2. The boys were playing video games, and they finished their favorite game. What _____ the boys doing?

Choose the correct option for each gap.

- **A)** did
- **B)** was
- **C)** were
- **D)** are

3. Choose the correct verb forms to complete the sentence.

When he _____ to the party last night, everyone _____ dancing.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** arrived
- **B)** arrive
- **C)** arrives

Blank 2

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** are
- **D)** is

4. Form a question using the same verb in the blank.

"The children were building a snowman in the yard."

Select one.

- **A)** Were the children building a snowman in the yard?
- **B)** Did the children build a snowman in the yard?
- **C)** Are the children building a snowman in the yard?
- **D)** Do the children build a snowman in the yard?

5. Fill in the blank with the correct past simple form of the verb "to go."

When we were children, we _____ to the playground every day after school.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

- **A)** go
- **B)** goes
- **C)** went
- **D)** were going

6. Choose the correct verb forms to complete the sentence.

The cat _____ on the windowsill when it suddenly _____ down.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** was sitting
- **B)** sat
- **C)** were sitting
- **D)** is sitting

Blank 2

- **A)** jumped
- **B)** jump
- **C)** jumps

7. Select the correct verb form to complete the sentence.

When the teacher entered the classroom, the students _____ quietly.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

- **A)** sits
- **B)** were sitting
- **C)** was sitting
- **D)** sit

8. Fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms of "to sing."

Every day, the birds _____ in the trees, but yesterday they _____ on the ground.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** sings
- **B)** sing
- **C)** are singing

Blank 2

- **A)** sang
- **B)** were singing
- **C)** sung

9. Turn this statement into a question.

"She read a book last week."

Select the correct option.

Select one.

- **A)** Did she read a book last week?
- **B)** Was she reading a book last week?
- **C)** Does she read a book last week?
- **D)** Is she reading a book last week?

10. Turn this statement into a simple past sentence.

"He walks his dog in the morning."

Select one.

- **A)** He walked his dog in the morning.
- **B)** He was walking his dog in the morning.
- **C)** He walks his dog in the morning.
- **D)** He has walked his dog in the morning.

11. Select the correct option.

Sarah was studying in the library, and she finally finished her project. What _____ Sarah doing in the library?

Choose the correct option for each gap.

- **A)** did
- **B)** was
- **C)** were
- **D)** is

12. Fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms of "to eat."

She usually _____ a sandwich for lunch, but yesterday she _____ pizza.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** eat
- **B)** eats
- **C)** ate

Blank 2

- **A)** eat
- **B)** eats
- **C)** ate

13. Choose the correct verb form to complete the sentence.

While I was shopping yesterday, I _____ into an old friend of mine.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

- **A)** run
- **B)** ran
- **C)** am running
- **D)** was running

14. Choose the correct verb forms to complete the sentence.

As soon as he _____ the news, he _____ to call his family.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** heard
- **B)** hears
- **C)** hear

Blank 2

- **A)** was starting
- **B)** started
- **C)** starts
- **D)** start

15. Form a question.

"They were playing soccer in the park all afternoon."

Select one.

- **A)** Were they playing soccer in the park all afternoon?
- **B)** Did they play soccer in the park all afternoon?
- **C)** Are they playing soccer in the park all afternoon?
- **D)** Do they play soccer in the park all afternoon?

16. Choose the correct verb forms to complete the sentence.

She _____ dinner when the phone _____.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** cooked
- **B)** was cooking
- **C)** cooks
- **D)** is cooking

Blank 2

- **A)** rang
- **B)** rings
- **C)** ring

17. Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verb "to be."

She _____ a great dancer now, but she _____ not very good when she started.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** is
- **B)** was
- **C)** were

Blank 2

- **A)** was
- **B)** is
- **C)** were

18. Form a question.

"I was watching television when the power went out."

Answers:

Select one.

- **A)** Was I watching television when the power went out?
- **B)** Did I watch television when the power went out?
- **C)** Am I watching television when the power went out?
- **D)** Do I watch television when the power went out?

19. Turn this statement into a past simple sentence.

"She always does her homework on time."

Answer options:

Select one.

- **A)** She always did her homework on time.
- **B)** She always does her homework on time.
- **C)** She always was doing her homework on time.
- **D)** She always done her homework on time.

20. Fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms of "to drink."

Normally, he _____ his coffee black, but this morning he _____ it with milk.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** drinks
- **B)** drink
- **C)** drank

Blank 2

- **A)** drank
- **B)** drunk
- **C)** drinks