



Worksheet: Mastering Past Tense Conjunctions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Topic: Linking Simple Past and Past Continuous with *When*, *While*, *Before*, and *After*.

Teacher's Quick Tips:

- Use **WHILE** for a long action (Past Continuous: was/were + -ing).
- Use **WHEN** for a short action or interruption (Simple Past).
- Use **BEFORE** and **AFTER** to show the order of events.

Part A: Choose the Correct Word

Circle the correct conjunction to complete the sentence.

1. I was watching a documentary (when / while) the power suddenly went out.
2. (When / While) we were waiting for the bus, it started to snow.
3. My sister was singing (when / while) she was cleaning her room.
4. I saw a famous actor (when / while) I was walking through the park.
5. The students stopped talking (when / while) the teacher entered the classroom.
6. (When / While) they were playing tennis, it began to rain heavily.
7. I fell asleep (when / while) I was reading a very long book.
8. The cat jumped on the table (when / while) I was eating my lunch.
9. (When / While) the phone rang, I was taking a shower.
10. He broke his leg (when / while) he was skiing in the mountains.

Part B: Fill in the Blanks

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

11. I always wash my hands _____ I eat my dinner.
12. _____ I finished my exams, I felt very relaxed and happy.
13. I was listening to music _____ I was doing my homework.
14. Please turn off the lights _____ you leave the house.

15. _____ the movie ended, we went to a cafe for a drink.
16. I saw an old friend _____ I was standing in line at the supermarket.
17. Make sure you check your work _____ you give it to the teacher.
18. My dad was driving to work _____ he heard the news on the radio.
19. We arrived at the station just _____ the train departed.
20. I felt much better _____ I took the medicine.
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Part C: Sentence Combining

Combine the two sentences into one using the conjunction in the parentheses. Remember to change the verb tense if necessary (Simple Past or Past Continuous).

21. I was cooking dinner. I burned my finger. (**when**)
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22. She was doing her homework. Her brother was playing video games. (**while**)
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23. I went to the gym. I had a big breakfast. (**after**)
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24. He put on his coat. He went outside into the cold. (**before**)
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25. We were sitting in the garden. We heard a loud noise. (**when**)
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Answer Key (For Teacher Use)

Part A

1. when
2. While
3. while
4. while
5. when
6. While
7. while
8. while
9. When
10. while

Part B 11. before 12. After 13. while (or when) 14. before 15. After 16. while 17. before 18. when (or while) 19. before 20. after

Part C 21. I was cooking dinner **when** I burned my finger. 22. She was doing her homework **while** her brother was playing video games. 23. I went to the gym **after** I had a big breakfast. (Or: **After** I had a big breakfast, I went to the gym.) 24. He put on his coat **before** he went outside into the cold. 25. We were sitting in the garden **when** we heard a loud noise.