Past Continuous exercises with answers

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Choose the right option

Tom and Anna _____ tennis at this time yesterday.

a) was playing b) are playing c) were playing

2. Choose the right option

_____ you sleeping at 11 o'clock last night?

a) Were b) Did c) Was

3. Choose the right option

I _____ in the park when I saw Anna, so I stopped and said hello.

a) am walking b) was walking c) walked

4. Choose the right option

The phone rang while we _____ dinner.

a) were having b) have c) are having

5. Choose the right option

When the phone rang, Anna _____ it.

a) answered b) was answering c) answers

6. Choose the right option

There _____ a small shop near my house ten years ago.

a) is b) was c) were

7. Choose the right option

My grandmother _____ in a small village, but now she lives with us.

a) used to live b) uses to live c) used to lives

8. Choose the right option

_____ you use to play football at school?

a) Were b) Do c) Did

9. Fill in the gaps

At 9 o'clock last night my brother _____ TV and my parents _____ dinner.

Words: were watching / was having / were having / was watching / are having

10. Choose the right option

Anna _____ working yesterday afternoon. She was at home with her son.

a) wasn't b) didn't c) weren't

11. Choose the right option

Sam was shopping in town when he _____ his old teacher.

a) saw b) sees c) was seeing

12. Fill in the gaps

_____ I was walking to work, I _____ an old friend.

Words: meet / During / meets / met / While

13. Put the words in order

Say what you and your friends did after the film

the / ending / we / ended / go / When / film / went / home

Not all words are needed.

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14. Choose the right option

When I was a child, there _____ three bedrooms in our flat.

a) were b) are c) was

15. Fill in the gaps

Tom _____ to _____ tennis, but now he plays football.

Words: playing / uses / use / plays / play / used

16. Put the words in order

Say that Anna didn't like fish in the past

didn't / like / fish / use / wasn't / uses / Anna / to

Not all words are needed.

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17. Put the words in order

Say what Anna was doing at seven in the morning

Anna / making / at / were / was / make / seven / breakfast

Not all words are needed.

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18. Choose the right option

Were your friends waiting for you? Yes, they _____.

a) were b) was c) did

19. Fill in the gaps

The children _____ in the garden when it _____ to rain.

Words: was playing / start / started / starts / were playing

20. Put the words in order

Say what happened while you and Anna were talking

we / was / The / were / ring / talking / rang / phone / while

Not all words are needed.

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21. Choose the right option

When I came in, Tom _____ a book, so he didn't see me.

a) reads b) read c) was reading

22. Fill in the gaps

Ten years ago there _____ a bank in our street, but there _____ any shops.

Words: were / weren't / is / are / was

23. Put the words in order

Say that your family had a dog in the past

to / a / has / We / used / dog / have / use

Not all words are needed.

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24. Choose the right option

Did your parents _____ to live in a village?

a) used b) use c) using

Answers

Past Continuous exercises with answers

1. **were playing**
   Tom and Anna = *they*, so we use *were*. *At this time yesterday* shows the past, so not *are playing*.

2. **Were**
   A question with an -ing form needs *was* or *were*. With *you* we use *Were*, not *Did*.

3. **was walking**
   The walk is in progress when you see Anna, so we use *was walking*. *Walked* means the walk starts after that.

4. **were having**
   After *while* we use the long action in the Past Continuous. With *we*: *were having*.

5. **answered**
   First the phone rings, then Anna answers. One action comes after the other, so we use *answered*.

6. **was**
   Shop is singular, and *ten years ago* shows the past. So we use *was*, not *is*.

7. **used to live**
   Used to is the same for every subject. After it we use the infinitive: *live*.

8. **Did**
   Questions with *used to* start with *did*, as in the Past Simple. *Do* is for the present.

9. **was watching ... were having**
   My brother = *he*, so *was watching*. *My parents* = *they*, and *last night* shows the past: *were having*.

10. **wasn't**
    Anna = *she*, so we use *wasn't*. We don't use *didn't* with an -ing form.

11. **saw**
    Seeing the teacher is the short action, so we use the Past Simple: *saw*. The long action is *was shopping*.

12. **While ... met**
    While, not *During*, goes before a long action with a subject and verb. The meeting is short, so we use the Past Simple: *met*.

13. **We went home when the film ended.**
    First the film ends, then you go home. One comes after the other, so both verbs are in the Past Simple.

14. **were**
    Bedrooms is plural, so we use *were*. *When I was a child* shows the past, so not *are*.

15. used ... play

For a past habit, we use *used to* with *d*. After *used to* we use the infinitive: *play*.

16. Anna didn't use to like fish.

The negative of *used to* is *didn't use to*. After *didn't* we write *use* without *d*.

17. Anna was making breakfast at seven.

Anna = *she*, so we use *was*. After *was* we use the -ing form: *making*.

18. were

The question has *were*, so the short answer has *were* too. *Your friends* = *they*.

19. were playing ... started

Were playing is the long action and *started* is the short one. *The children* = *they*, so *were*. *Starts* and *start* are present, but the story is in the past.

20. The phone rang while we were talking.

Talking is the long action: *while we were talking*. Ringing is the short action: *rang*.

21. was reading

The reading is already in progress when you come in, so we use *was reading*. *Read* would mean Tom starts reading after that.

22. was ... weren't

Bank is singular and *ten years ago* shows the past: *was*. The words *but* and *any* show that there were no shops: *weren't*.

23. We used to have a dog.

For something true before but not now, we use *used to* with *d*. Then the infinitive: *have*.

24. use

After *did* we write *use* without *d*. *Did* already shows the past.