

PAST SIMPLE (o SIMPLE PAST) / PAST CONTINUOUS

2° colonna della tabella dei paradigmi dei verbi irregolari

I went / you did

SIMPLE
PAST

TODAY

PAST CONTINUOUS

PAST

Past simple di «be» + -ing form del verbo che descrive l'azione

I was going / you were doing

The two actions are joined together with the following conjunctions:

when = quando

while = mentre

as = mentre

- We use **when / while / as** + **past continuous** to describe an action taking place in the past.

When I was doing my homework, a friend of mine sent me a WhatsApp message.

It started to rain while we were playing volleyball.

As I was coming back home from school, I met my aunt.

- We use **when** + **past simple** to describe a single action that interrupts the action in progress.

He was cooking dinner when the phone rang.

In queste frasi, formate da due semi-frasi, l'azione descritta dal *past simple* può essere introdotta solo da *when*, questa semi-frase normalmente occupa la seconda metà; l'azione descritta dal *past continuous* può essere introdotta da *when*, *while* e *as*, a scelta, questa semi-frase può occupare sia la prima, sia la seconda metà. Solo una delle due semi-frasi utilizza una di queste *connecting words*.

While I was brushing my teeth **when** the phone rang → sbagliata

I was brushing my teeth **when** the phone rang → corretta

While I was brushing my teeth, the phone rang → corretta

The phone rang **while** I was brushing my teeth → corretta