

WHILE/WHEN

1-We use the PAST CONTINUOUS to say that we were in a middle of an action in the past:

I **was walking** across the field.../ I **was coming back** from school...

2-We use PAST SIMPLE for a complete action in the past or for two actions one after the other:

When I **heard** the crash, I **ran** to the village. (= I heard it and then I ran)

3 -Often the PAST CONTINUOUS is used to describe the background and the PAST SIMPLE for the actions in story:

The crowds **were waiting**...The Princess **arrived**.

4-We often use PAST SIMPLE and PAST CONTINUOUS together when a shorter action interrupted a longer one:

I **fell** asleep WHILE I **was watching** television

We **were sitting** in the garden WHEN it **started** to rain.

*We can change the order of the sentences: WHILE I **was watching** television, I fell asleep
WHEN it started to rain, we were sitting in the garden