

## The past continuous and the simple past tenses

We often use the past continuous and the simple past tenses together. When this happens, the past continuous usually describes a longer, “background” action or situation, and the simple past describes an action or event that often interrupted that action. We usually use the word *when* to link this type of sentence.

*The dog took the bone when no one was looking.*

**Task 1: Use the verbs below to describe the scene in the market.**

look at      eat      talk      read



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 2: Complete the sentences using the verbs in the past continuous or the past simple.**

1. Last Sunday morning Kim decided to call her friend Sue.  
Sue (listen) \_\_\_\_\_ to the radio when Kim (call) \_\_\_\_\_ her.
2. They (try) \_\_\_\_\_ to decide what to do when Kim (suggest) \_\_\_\_\_ going to the movies.
3. They (meet) \_\_\_\_\_ a friend when they (buy) \_\_\_\_\_ the tickets.
4. After the movie, when they (walk) \_\_\_\_\_ back home it (start) \_\_\_\_\_ to rain.