Past Simple / Past Continuous

A   Circle the correct answer.

1   The sun ...... when I looked out of the window.
    ⓐ   was shining   b   shone

2   What ...... when you saw him at the dance?
    a   did he wear   b   was he wearing

3   They ...... spaghetti for dinner last night.
    a   made   b   were making

4   They ...... for their friends an hour ago.
    a   were waiting   b   waited

5   We ...... the house twice last week.
    a   cleaned   b   was cleaning

6   While Sam ...... his homework, I was playing the guitar.
    a   is doing   b   was doing

B   Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets. Use the Past Simple or Past Continuous.

1   I ....*saw*............. (see) Helen yesterday afternoon.

2   The girls .... (play) basketball at 3.00 pm.

3   We .... (leave) the party at midnight.

4   Jane .... (not do) her homework yesterday.

5   The rain .... (stop) five minutes ago.

6   .... you .... (swim) in the sea at 6.00 am?

7   We .... (arrive) at the bus stop too late.

8   How .... you .... (break) the window?

C   Fill in the blanks with the Past Simple or Past Continuous form of the verb in brackets.

1   While I .*was swimming*. (swim) in the river, I ....*saw*........ (see) some frogs.

2   Jim .... (not pay) attention when he .... (drive) his car into a tree.

3   What .... you .... (do) while she .... (sleep)?

4   Everyone .... (sleep) when the robbers .... (break in).

5   .... your friend .... (stand) outside when you .... (come) home?

6   It .... (start) raining while we .... (play) tennis.

7   We .... (arrive) at the station just as the train .... (leave).

8   I'm sorry. I .... (not listen) while you .... (talk).

D   Complete the sentences with *while* **or** *when*.

1   We were playing basketball ....*when*..... it began to rain.

2   .... I was doing my homework, the telephone rang.

3   .... my father came home last night, we were making dinner.

4   The dog was barking .... we were sleeping.

While you were sleeping, I was building my new house.

Past Simple / Past Continuous – *Answers*

A   1 a   2 b   3 a   4 a   5 a   6 b

B   1   saw   5   stopped
    2   were playing   6   Were ... swimming
    3   left   7   arrived
    4   didn't do   8   did ... break

C   1   was swimming, saw
    2   wasn't paying, drove
    3   were … doing, was sleeping
    4   was sleeping, broke in
    5   Was ... standing, came
    6   started, were playing
    7   arrived, was leaving
    8   wasn't listening, were talking

D   1   when   2   While   3   When   4   while