

# Past simple - Past continuous: While & When



We often use **Past continuous** and **Past simple** together in **time clauses** for the past, using **while** and **when** as time markers.

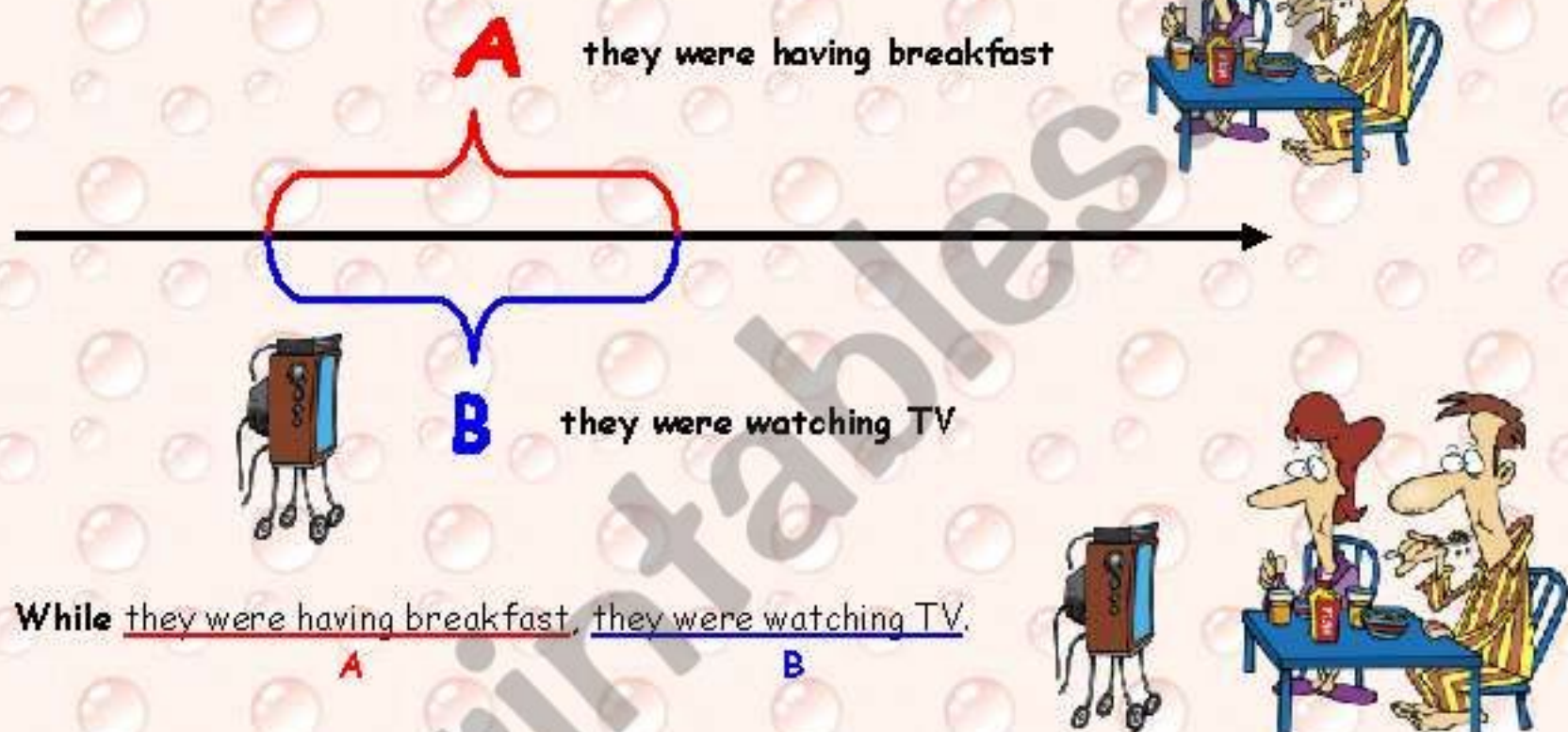
**While** I **was taking** to my sister, Peter **came** in.

I **was walking** down the street **when** I **saw** Mary.

But there are also other situations in the past. Look at the boxes below, and study these three types of **time clauses** that use **Past simple** and **Past continuous**.

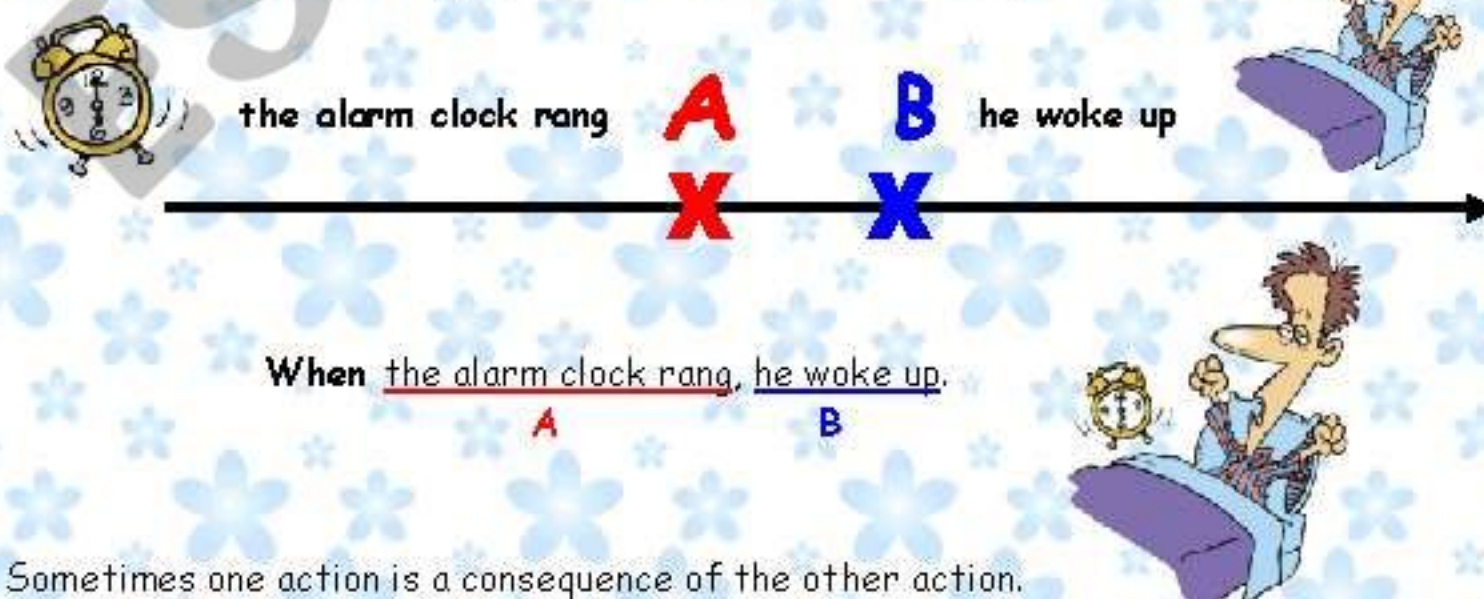
## Past continuous - Past continuous

Both actions (**A** and **B**) were happening at the same time in the past.



## Past simple - Past simple

Both actions (**A** and **B**) happened one after another in the past.



Sometimes one action is a consequence of the other action.

When an action took place immediately after the other action you can use **as soon as** instead of **when**.

**As soon as** the alarm clock rang, he woke up.