

# The burglar

## Practice for simple past and past continuous tenses

Write the **simple past** or the **past continuous** form for each parenthesized verb. (Note: If two events are happening at the same time, we use *while* instead of *when*.)

A burglar (break) into our house last night. We (*neg* notice) him, though, because we (sleep) when he (break) in through the kitchen door. To be frank, we (*neg* sleep) — we (do) something much more interesting. While the burglar (put) our valuables into his bag, we (think) about more pleasant things; but then, when the burglar (knock over) the floor lamp, we both (jump) out of bed and (see) him. When we (discover) him, he (look) for money in my wife's purse. Then, when he (realize) that we had discovered him, he (say), "Heck, you haven't got anything good in this house anyway," and (run) out through the kitchen door. While he (run) away, we (try) call the police. The police (come) but it was too late. Even now, twenty years later, I miss the nice comic books that burglar stole from me.

### Answers

(Note the use of *while*.)

A burglar broke into our house last night. We didn't notice him, though, because we were sleeping when he broke in through the kitchen door. To be frank, we weren't sleeping—we were doing something much more interesting. While the burglar was putting our valuables into his bag, we were thinking about more pleasant things; but then, when the burglar knocked over the floor lamp, we both jumped out of bed and saw him. When we discovered him, he was looking for money in my wife's purse. Then, when he realized that we had discovered him, he said, "Heck, you haven't got anything good in this house anyway," and ran out through the kitchen door. While he was running away, we tried to call the police. The police came, but it was too late. Even now, twenty years later, I miss the nice comic books that burglar stole from me.