Exercise 1:

Complete the following sentences with the correct form (Past Simple or Past Continuous).

1. A: What (you, do) ________________ when you heard that noise?
   B: I (try) ________________ to change a light bulb that had burnt out.

2. After I (find) ________________ the wallet full of money, I (go, immediately) ________________, to the police and (turn) ________________ it in.

3. The doctor (say) ________________ that Brian (be) ________________ too weak to go to work and that he (need) ________________ to stay at home for a couple of days.

4. My best friend (arrive) ________________ at my house a little before 9:00 pm, but I (be, not) ________________ there. I (study) ________________ at the library for my final examination in Italian.

5. John is in the living room working on his computer. At this time yesterday, he (work, also) ________________ on his computer. That's all he ever does!

6. A: I (call) ________________ you last night after dinner, but you (be, not) ________________ there. Where were you?
   B: I (work) ________________ out at the gym.

7. When I (walk) ________________ into the busy office, the secretaries (talk) ________________ on the phone with customers, a clerk (work, busily) ________________ at his desk, and two managers (discuss, quietly) ________________ methods to improve customer service.
8. I (watch) __________________ a thriller on T.V. when the electricity went out. Now I am never going to find out how the film ends.

9. Samantha (be) __________________ in the room when Bob (tell) __________________ me what happened, but she didn't hear anything because she (listen, not) __________________.

10. It's strange that you (call) __________________ because I (think, just) __________________ about you.

11. The Titanic (cross) __________________ the Atlantic when it (strike) __________________ an iceberg.

12. When I entered the store, a couple of merchants (bargain, noisily) __________________ and (try) __________________ to sell their goods to naive tourists who (hunt) __________________ for souvenirs. Some young boys (lead) __________________ their donkeys through the narrow streets on their way home. A couple of men (argue) __________________ over the price of a leather belt. I (walk) __________________ over to a man who (sell) __________________ fruit and (buy) __________________ a banana.

13. The firemen (rescue) __________________ the old woman who (be) __________________ trapped on the third floor of the burning building.

14. I was very upset! He (leave, always) __________________ his dirty dishes in the sink. I think he (expect) __________________ me to do them up for him.

15. Samantha (live) __________________ in Cambridge for more than two years. In fact, she (live) __________________ there when I was a student.