

# Contrast: past simple and past continuous

*I can distinguish the use of the past simple and the past continuous.*

## 1 Choose the correct tense to complete the sentences.

- Jake looked at the weather outside: it was grey, but it **didn't rain / wasn't raining**.
- You didn't answer when I phoned you this morning. What **did you do / were you doing**?
- Lucy switched off her computer, **put on / was putting on** her coat and **left / was leaving** the office.
- She closed the window because some children **made / were making** a lot of noise outside.
- When I told my friends about the robbery, they **didn't believe / weren't believing** me.
- She didn't hear the doorbell because she **had / was having** a shower.

## 2 Complete the sentences. Use the past simple form of one verb and the past continuous form of the other.

- I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) Henry as I \_\_\_\_\_ (cycle) to the sports centre.
- While we \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) the picnic, it \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to rain.
- All my friends \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the party when I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive).
- As we \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) by the river, we \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) a shout.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ (not eat) very much while we \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in that hotel.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) my dad's coffee while he \_\_\_\_\_ (not look).
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) her new phone as she \_\_\_\_\_ (put) it in her pocket.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) a really interesting person while I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for the bus.

## 3 Complete the text with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

In January 2014, a doctor from New Zealand <sup>1</sup>had (have) a frightening experience with a shark – but his calm reaction <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (make) him the star of news reports around the world.

James Grant <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (fish) with friends one Saturday when a shark attacked him. He <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (not see) anything, but he <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (felt) a sudden pain in his leg. At first, he thought that his friends <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (play) a prank on him. He <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (turn) around – but nobody <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (be) behind him. Then he <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (realise) what <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (happen).

## 4 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first.

- I hurt my finger while I was playing the guitar.  
I was playing the guitar when I hurt my finger.
- I was walking home when it started to rain.  
While I \_\_\_\_\_.
- She broke her leg while she was learning to ski.  
She was learning \_\_\_\_\_.
- He was making lunch when he suddenly felt ill.  
As he \_\_\_\_\_.
- She was telling me about her party when she started to laugh loudly.  
She started \_\_\_\_\_.
- I lost my wallet while I was shopping.  
While I \_\_\_\_\_.
- As the band were playing their first song, all the lights went out.  
The band were playing \_\_\_\_\_.

## 5 Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Use the past simple or past continuous.

- As I was getting off the bus, \_\_\_\_\_.
- We were trying to find our hotel when \_\_\_\_\_.
- An amazing thing happened as \_\_\_\_\_.

Luckily, James <sup>11</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (carry) a knife so he <sup>12</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (use) it to fight off the shark. Then he <sup>13</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (get) out of the water and <sup>14</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (look) at his leg. The bites were 5 cm long and they <sup>15</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (bleed) a lot. James <sup>16</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (clean) his leg. Then he and his friends <sup>17</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to a nearby café! While they <sup>18</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) a drink, somebody <sup>19</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (give) James a bandage because his leg <sup>20</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (bleed). He <sup>21</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to hospital for some treatment, but on Monday he was back at work.

