

Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

a) When you passed the town hall clock, *did you notice/were you noticing* what time it was?

b) Last night my neighbours *were shouting/would shout* for hours and I couldn't get to sleep.

c) When you lived in London, *did you use to travel/were you travelling* by bus?

d) Everyone was having a good time, although not many people *danced / were dancing*.

e) Jill was really hungry because she *didn't eat/hadn't eaten* all day.

f) Before we went to the theatre, we *called in/had called in* at George's cafe for a pizza.

g) It took a while for me to notice, but then I did. Everyone *stared/was staring* at me. What had I done wrong?

h) Nobody bothered to tell me that the school *decided/had decided* to have a special holiday on Friday.

i) I *was trying/tried* to get in touch with you all day yesterday. Where were you?

j) A: Excuse me, but this seat is mine.

B: I'm sorry, I *didn't realise/hadn't realised* that you were sitting here.

Choose the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

- a) *Once / Afterwards* I'd read the manual, I found I could use the computer easily.
- b) It was more than a month *before / until* I realised what had happened.
- c) I managed to talk to Carol just *as / while* she was leaving.
- d) It wasn't *until / up to* 1983 that Nigel could afford to take holidays abroad.
- e) George always let me know *by the time / whenever* he was going to be late.
- f) I was having a bath *at the time / that time*, so I didn't hear the doorbell.
- g) We bought our tickets and five minutes *after / later* the train arrived.
- h) According to Grandpa, people used to dress formally *those days / in his day*.
- i) Everyone was talking but stopped *at that time / the moment* Mr Smith arrived,
- j) The letter still hadn't arrived *by / until* the end of the week.

Put each verb in brackets into a suitable past verb form.

This time last year I (1) _____ (cycle) in the rain along a country road in France with a friend of mine. We (2) _____ (decide) to go on a cycling holiday in Normandy. Neither of us (3) _____ (be) to France before, but we (4) _____ (know) some French from our time at school and we (5) _____ (manage) to brush up on the basics.

Now we (6) _____ (wonder) if we (7) _____ (make) the right decision. We (8) _____ (plan) our route carefully in advance, but we (9) _____ (forget) one important thing, the weather. It _____ (10) (rain) solidly since our arrival and that night we (11) _____ (end up) sleeping in the waiting room at a railway station. Then the next morning as we (12) _____ (ride) down a steep hill my bike (13) _____ (skid) on the wet road and I (14) _____ (fall off). I (15) _____ (realise) immediately that I (16) _____ (break) my arm, and after a visit to the local hospital I _____ (17) (catch) the next train to Calais for the ferry home. Unfortunately my parents (18) _____ (not/expect) me home for a fortnight, and (19) _____ (go) away on holiday. So I (20) _____ (spend) a miserable couple of weeks alone, reading 'Teach Yourself French'.

Choose the correct form.

a When Dora *went / had gone* to pay for the petrol she *was putting / had put* in her car, she *realized / was realizing* that she *lost / had lost* her credit card.

b While I *was waiting / had waited* for my meal to arrive, I *saw / was seeing* that the two men who had followed me into the restaurant *were staring / had been staring* at me from a nearby table.

c When I *heard / was hearing* the noise at the window, I *knew / I had known* that someone *tried / was trying* to break into the house.

d Maria *didn't remember / wasn't remembering* anything about the accident, except that she *didn't drive / had not been driving* too fast and in fact *had almost stopped / was almost stopping* before she reached the crossroads.

e By the time the fire engines *arrived / were arriving* at the cottage, Tom and his neighbours *already put out / had already put out* the fire and *were carrying / had been carrying* furniture out of the blackened building.

f 'What *did you do / were you doing* in the High Street at that time of night, and why *did you run away / had you run away* when the officer *told / was telling* you to stop?' asked the lawyer.

g While Sally *painted / was painting* the ceiling, she *fell off / was falling off* the ladder but luckily she *didn't break / wasn't breaking* any bones.

h Our taxi to the airport *didn't turn up / wasn't turning up* on time, and so by the time we *got / were getting* to the check-in desk, the flight *already closed / had already closed*.

i) Marlowe walked slowly into the room. He *didn't forget / hadn't forgotten* his last visit to the house, when Miss LaPorte *had fired / was firing* two shots at him, so he *had taken / was taking* no chances this time.

j) Alice could see that the tall boy *had / was having* difficulty making himself understood, but she *decided / was deciding* not to help him. After all, nobody *had helped / was helping* her during her first days in this country!