



LESSON :

Past continuous vs past simple

[CLICK HERE TO DO THE ACTIVITIES. HACER CLCK AQUÍ PARA HACER LAS ACTIVIDADES.](#)

1. Match these words and phrases to the items in the picture. Use numbers.

- 1 tuxedo (US) / dinner jacket (UK) 2 bow tie 3 corsage 4 buttonhole 5 long dress / ballgown
6 tie 7 vest (US) / waistcoat (UK) 8 earrings 9 necklace 10 limo

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Prom Stories

Send us your unforgettable prom moments

I was hoping for the best night of my life, but it turned out very different. When I arrived at the prom with my date in a limo, I was feeling fantastic. But when I walked through the door, I saw my classmate Jennifer and things changed. We were wearing identical blue dresses! It was terrible! But the worst part was this: I was dancing with some friends when suddenly somebody grabbed me from behind and kissed me. It was Jennifer's date. He thought I was Jennifer – the same dress and blonde hair confused him. It was SO EMBARRASSING!

Twin Laura

It was prom night and I was almost ready. I felt great in my fabulous long pink and white dress. While I was finishing off my make-up, the doorbell rang. It was my date. I heard my parents opening the door for him. I quickly put on my high heel shoes and left my room to meet him downstairs. He looked gorgeous and I started to walk down the stairs to greet him. Shortly after that, the most embarrassing thing happened to me! I tripped and fell all the way down the stairs. There was no high school prom for me that night. Instead, I had to go to the hospital! I broke my leg!

Disappointed Daisy

2. Read the comments above and answer T(true) or F(false). (Leer los comentarios de arriba y responder verdadero o falso)

- ☐ Laura's date kissed her at the prom.
- ☐ Laura and her classmate were wearing identical dresses.
- ☐ Daisy fell over while she was walking towards her date's car.
- ☐ Daisy went to the prom with her date.
- ☐ Both Daisy and Laura felt embarrassed.

Useful Tip > Vocabulary

Prom (US), short for 'promenade', or **grad** (UK), short for 'graduate', is a formal party organised for senior high school students at the end of their last school year.

Note: The term 'prom' is becoming more common in the UK.



Past Continuous vs. Simple Past

We use the *Past Continuous* to express a long action. And we use the *Simple Past* to express a short action that interrupts the long one. We can join the two ideas with *when* or *while*.

*While we **were dancing** in the park, it **started to rain**.*
*She **was getting dressed** when the door bell **rang**.*



3. Read this phone conversation and fill in the blanks saying the correct form (Past Continuous or Past Simple) of the verbs in brackets.

(Leer la conversación y completar los espacios diciendo la forma correcta del verbo)

Daisy Hello.

Anna Daisy, it's Anna here. Tell me about last night. ^[1] Did you enjoy (enjoy) the prom?

Daisy I ^[2] _____ (not - go) to the prom.

Anna Why not?

Daisy I ^[3] _____ (have) an accident.

Anna An accident? What sort of accident?

Daisy You know, I ^[4] _____ (get) ready to go to the prom when Josh ^[5] _____ (arrive) and waited for me downstairs. I ^[6] _____ (see) him from the top of the stairs and he ^[7] _____ (look) absolutely gorgeous. He ^[8] _____ (wear) a black dinner jacket.

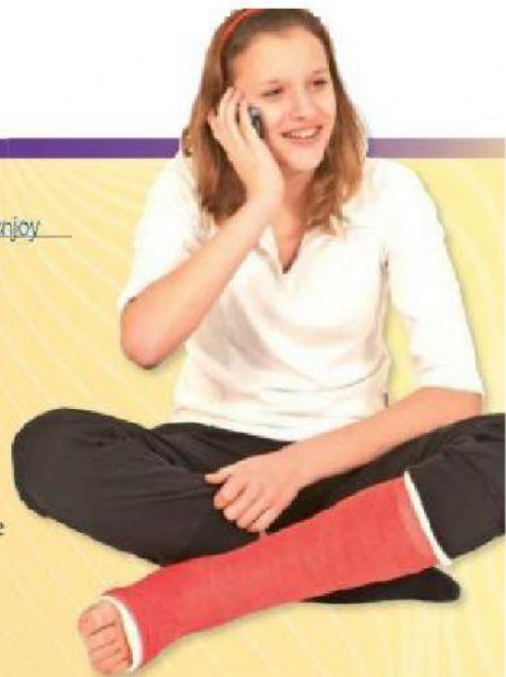
Anna And then what ^[9] _____ (happen)?

Daisy While I ^[10] _____ (walk) down the stairs, I ^[11] _____ (hear) a noise and then I ^[12] _____ (trip) and ^[13] _____ (fall) all the way down. It was really horrible!

Anna Oh, no! ^[14] _____ you ^[15] _____ (hurt) yourself?

Daisy My leg ^[16] _____ (ache) a lot and then my dad ^[17] _____ (take) me to the hospital. I ^[18] _____ (break) my leg. So no prom night for me!

Anna Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that.



4. Listen to Steve talking about his prom night and choose the correct option.

- Steve discovered that the _____ working well.
- It tooks Steve _____ minutes to repair it.
- When he was _____ one of the cables, the lights went out.
- Steve _____ a very popular student on that prom night.

5. Tick the correct option.

- 1 He was watching ☐ watched ☐ TV when
I phoned ☐ was phoning ☐ him this morning.
- 2 Mum cooked ☐ was cooking ☐ dinner when
she heard ☐ was hearing ☐ the phone ring.
- 3 When Nathan was seeing ☐ saw ☐ Julia for the
first time, she was running ☐ ran ☐ in the park.
- 4 When you were calling ☐ called ☐ me,
I had ☐ was having ☐ a shower.
- 5 While Peter helped ☐ was helping ☐ his mum
in the kitchen, his brother was watching ☐
watched ☐ a sitcom on TV.

6. Finish these sentences with your own ideas.

1. While I was getting back home yesterday evening,.....
2. Last night I was talking to the phone when.....
3. Yesterday while I was sleeping,.....

YOU GOT IT!

