

Past simple or past continuous?



1. Choose the correct answer. Write it in the space at the end of each sentence.

- 1 Was it snowing when / while you went to bed last night?
- 2 When / While I was walking home, I found £50 in the street.
- 3 I wasn't sleeping when / while he came back.
- 4 I found your keys when / while I was tidying the living room.
- 5 Fred phoned when / while you were sleeping.
- 6 We were having lunch when / while the fire started.
- 7 I saw an accident when / while I was waiting for the bus this morning.
- 8 When / While I walked into the room, Dave was reading my diary!

2. Complete with the past simple or past continuous.

It was late on a Friday afternoon and Mr Jules ¹ was walking (walk) home from work. There was a big lorry outside his block of flats. 'Somebody's moving house', he ² (think).

He ³ (stand) outside the front door when he ⁴ (see) two men at the door. They ⁵ (carry) a huge TV. Mr Jules ⁶ (hold) the door open for them, they ⁷ (thank) him and they ⁸ (carry) the TV to the lorry.

Then, Mr Jules ⁹ (go) upstairs to his flat on the second floor.

While he ¹⁰ (look) for his keys, he ¹¹ (notice) that his door was open.

He ¹² (remember) the two men with the TV and he nearly ¹³ (faint)!

The two men were thieves and the TV they ¹⁴ (carry) was his TV!

3. Complete with the past simple or past continuous. Then put the paragraphs in the correct order.



Last Saturday, Mr Fry ¹ drove (drive) to the centre of the town. He ² (park) his car and ³ (walk) into a bookshop.



A police officer ⁴ (tell) him: 'While the thief ⁵ (drive), your parrot suddenly ⁶ (shout): 'Stop! Police!'. The man was so scared that he ⁷ (stop) the car and ⁸ (get) out. A police car ⁹ (see) him while he ¹⁰ (run) in the street and ¹¹ (arrest) him!



While he ¹² (pay) for his books a man with a black mask over his head ¹³ (get into) Mr Fry's car and ¹⁴ (drive) away. Mr Fry ¹⁵ (see) him and he ¹⁶ (run) after him. Then he ¹⁷ (remember) that Lucky, his pet parrot was on the back seat. He ¹⁸ (decide) to go to the police station. While he ¹⁹ (pay) the taxi driver he ²⁰ (see) his car – it was in the police car park!