

Past continuous

a Read

In 1972, Jane **was living** in London and she **was working** for an advertising agency.

When Cartier-Bresson took the photo, Jane and her boyfriend **were looking** at an owl in a tree.

Look at the **highlighted** verbs. Which verbs describe...?

- 1 an action in progress at a specific moment in the past
- 2 the situation at the beginning of the story

c Complete the sentences with a verb from the list in the correct past continuous form.

do get not live not rain walk work

- 1 Amy **was walking** in the park at 10.30 yesterday.
- 2 _____ you and Jack _____ in the same office when you first met?
- 3 Why didn't you answer the phone last night?
What _____?
- 4 It _____ when I left home this morning.
- 5 I _____ in Prague in 2017.
- 6 I dropped my passport when I _____ into the taxi.

d The police are at an art gallery because someone stole a famous painting at 5.30 yesterday afternoon. What were the people in the pictures doing at the time? Write sentences.



1 clean Gallery 6

I **was cleaning** Gallery 6.



2 try to find the exit

We _____.

b Complete the sentences with the verb in the past continuous.

I **was eating** dinner, so I didn't answer the phone. (eat)

- 1 I took this photo when we _____ in Greece. (travel)
- 2 He met his wife when he _____ in Japan. (live)
- 3 _____ she _____ a coat when she went out? (wear)
- 4 The sun _____ when I went to work. (shine)
- 5 What _____ you _____ at 7.30 last night? (do)
- 6 I _____ when you gave the instructions. (not listen)
- 7 They _____ TV when I arrived. (not watch)
- 8 It started to rain when we _____ in the park. (run)

What were you doing at 5.30 yesterday afternoon?



3 close the windows

I _____.



4 wash the coffee cups

We _____.





5 count the money

I _____



6 What were you doing at 5.30 yesterday?

I _____

Lucy broke (break) her arm last week.
It _____ (happen) when she _____ (paint) her room. She _____ (fall) off the ladder.

e Put the verbs into the past simple or past continuous.

She arrived when we were having dinner.
(arrive, have)

- I _____ my arm when I _____ football.
(break, play)
- _____ you _____ fast when the police
_____ you? (drive, stop)
- It _____ when we _____ the pub.
(snow, leave)
- I _____ the match because I _____.
(not see, work)
- When you _____ me, I _____ to my boss. (call, talk)
- We _____ in Cambridge when we _____.
(study, meet)
- _____ they _____ in Rome when they
_____ their first baby? (live, have)

f Write sentences with when. Use the past simple and past continuous.

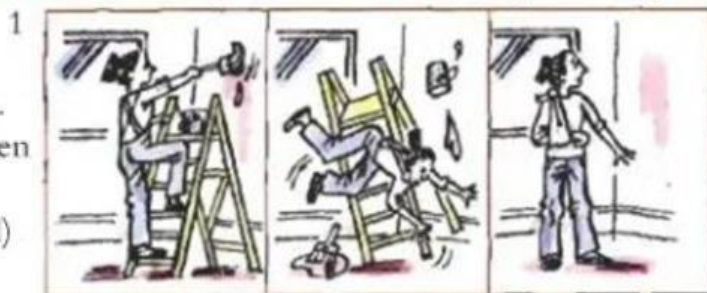
- Tommy / fall off his bike / cycle home
Tommy fell off his bike when he was cycling home.
- Mark / talk on the phone / get a text

- The children / play computer games / the visitors arrive

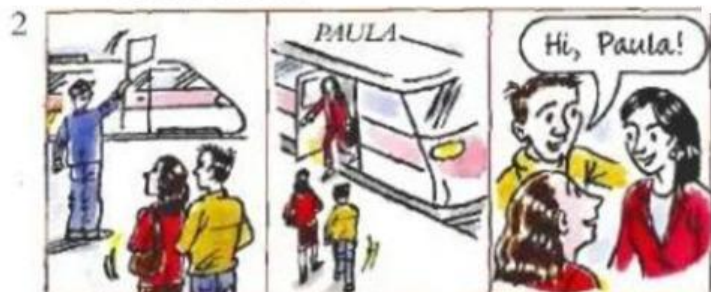
- We / have a barbecue / it start to rain

- I / write a report / my computer crash

Look at the pictures. Put the verbs in the correct form, past continuous or past simple.



The train _____ (arrive) at the station and Paula _____ (get) off. Two friends of hers, Jon and Rachel, _____ (wait) to meet her.



Yesterday Sue _____ (walk) _____ along the road when she _____ (meet) James. He _____ (go) to the station to catch a train and he _____ (carry) a bag. They _____ (stop) to talk for a few minutes.

