

Earthquake!

In pairs, read the story. Then choose the correct form of the verbs, past simple or past continuous.

1 James ^M *did* / ^C *was doing* his homework in his bedroom when the earthquake ^H *started* / ^A *was starting* at 6.15 p.m.

2 He ^J *sat* / ^A *was sitting* at his desk when the chair ^R *started* / ^A *was starting* to move across the floor.

3 When the floor ^L *stopped* / ^M *was stopping* moving, James ^E *ran* / ^R *was running* to find his mother.

4 His mother ^D *cooked* / ^S *was cooking* when the earthquake ^R *started* / ^S *was starting*.

5 When he ^I *found* / ^T *was finding* his mother, she ^Y *stood* / ^C *was standing* in front of the cooker.

She was OK, but the kitchen was a mess!

6 They ^H *decided* / ^R *were deciding* to look outside. Outside, they ^T *saw* / ^I *were seeing* some trees on the ground and they heard voices calling for help.

7 The hospital was very busy that evening, but nobody ^E *died* / ^N *was dying*.

8 It wasn't a very bad earthquake. It only ^R *measured* / ^G *was measuring* 5.5.

Write the letters from over the correct answers to find out the name of the American scientist who invented a scale for measuring earthquakes in 1935.

C H _ _ _ _ _

