



1. The Reading Text: The Secret of the Whispering Woods

Directions: Read the story. Notice how bold verbs show background actions happening, while underlined verbs show sudden interrupting events.

Lira the elf **was walking** through the dark forest at midnight. The wind **was howling** through the old trees, and the stars **was shining** brightly in the sky. She **was looking** for her lost magic crystal.

Suddenly, she **heard** a strange noise behind a bush. While Lira **was listening** carefully, a small, glowing rabbit **jumped** out. The rabbit **looked** at Lira and **started** to run.

Lira **followed** the rabbit quickly. While they **was running** through the trees, they **found** a hidden cave. Inside the cave, Lira's magic crystal **was glowing** on a rock!

2. Reading Comprehension Check

1. Who is the main character in the story?

- A) A knight B) An elf named Lira C) A giant rabbit

2. What was Lira looking for in the forest?

- A) A hidden cave B) Her lost magic crystal C) A glowing rabbit

3. Where did she finally find her crystal?

- A) Behind a bush B) In the starry sky C) Inside a hidden cave

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3. Grammar Focus: Rules & Structure

We combine the past continuous and simple past to tell engaging fairy tales:

Tense	Form / Structure	Function in Narrative
Past Continuous	Subject + <i>was/were</i> + verb-ing (e.g., <i>was walking, were shining</i>)	Sets the background scene or atmosphere. Action is already in progress.
Simple Past	Subject + verb-ed / irregular form (e.g., <i>heard, jumped, found</i>)	Describes a sudden event or main action that interrupts the background.

The "While / When" Rule:

- **While** + Past Continuous (*While Lira was listening...*)
- **When** + Simple Past (*...when the rabbit jumped out.*)

4. Grammar Practice Exercise

Fill in the blanks using Past Continuous (*was/were* + *-ing*) or Simple Past (*-ed* / irregular).

1. While the princess _____ (*sleep*) in her tower, a loud noise _____ (*wake*) her up.
2. The wizard _____ (*mix*) a magic potion when the glass bottle _____ (*break*).
3. While the hobbit _____ (*hide*) in the dark, the troll _____ (*walk*) past the cave.
4. A dragon _____ (*fly*) over the castle when the knight _____ (*shoot*) an arrow.
5. While the fairy _____ (*collect*) star dust, a shooting star _____ (*fall*) nearby.
6. The mermaid _____ (*sing*) a sweet song when a massive wave _____ (*crash*) down.
7. While the villagers _____ (*sleep*), a mysterious shadow _____ (*appear*) in the square.
8. The king _____ (*read*) an old map when the castle gates _____ (*open*).
9. While the unicorn _____ (*drink*) from the stream, it _____ (*hear*) a twig snap.
10. The thieves _____ (*steal*) the golden crown when the guards _____ (*catch*) them.

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