9 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*. Which was the longer action in each sentence?

1 They ...*were cleaning*... (clean) the windows when it ...*started*... (start) to rain.
Cleaning the windows was the longer action.
2 As he ..... (drive) to work, he ..... (remember) that his briefcase was still at home.
3 Melanie ..... (cook) dinner when her husband ..... (come) home.
4 I ..... (hear) a loud crash as I ..... (sit) in the garden.
5 She ..... (type) a letter when her boss ..... (arrive).
6 While the dog ..... (dig) in the garden, it ..... (find) a bone.
7 Mary ..... (ride) her bicycle when she ..... (notice) the tiny kitten.
8 While I ..... (do) my homework, the phone ..... (ring).

10 *A policeman is asking Mrs Hutchinson about a car accident she happened to see yesterday.* Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*.



P: What **1)** ...*were you doing*... (you/do) when you **2)** ..... (see) the accident, madam?
H: I **3)** ..... (walk) down the street.
P: What exactly **4)** ..... (you/see)?
H: Well, the driver of the car **5)** ..... (drive) down the road when suddenly the old man just **6)** ..... (step) in front of him! It **7)** ..... (be) terrible!
P: **8)** ..... (the driver/speed)?
H: No, not really, but the old man **9)** ..... (not/look) both ways before he **10)** ..... (try) to cross the road.
P: **11)** ..... (anyone else/see) the accident?
H: Yes, the lady in the post office.
P: Thank you very much.

11 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*.

A As soon as Margaret **1)** ...*got*... (get) off the train, she **2)** ..... (pull) her coat around her. Rain **3)** ..... (fall) heavily and a cold wind **4)** ..... (blow) across the platform. She **5)** ..... (look) around, but no one **6)** ..... (wait) to meet her. She **7)** ..... (turn) to leave when she **8)** ..... (hear) footsteps. A man **9)** ..... (walk) towards her. He **10)** ..... (smile) at her, then he **11)** ..... (say), 'You're finally here.'

B George **1)** ..... (pick) up his bag then, **2)** ..... (throw) it over his shoulder. It **3)** ..... (get) dark and he **4)** ..... (have) a long way to go. He wished that he had let someone know that he was coming. It **5)** ..... (start) to rain, and he was feeling cold and tired from the long journey. Suddenly, he **6)** ..... (hear) a noise, then he **7)** ..... (see) two bright lights on the road ahead. A car **8)** ..... (head) towards him. It slowed down and finally **9)** ..... (stop) beside him. A man **10)** ..... (sit) at the wheel. He **11)** ..... (open) the door quickly and **12)** ..... (say) 'Get in, George.'

C Andy **1)** ..... (step) into the house and **2)** ..... (close) the door behind him. Everything **3)** ..... (be) quiet. His heart **4)** ..... (beat) fast and his hands **5)** ..... (shake) as he crept silently into the empty house, but he was trying not to panic. He soon **6)** ..... (find) what he **7)** ..... (look) for. He smiled with relief as he put on the clothes. The men who **8)** ..... (follow) him would never recognise him now.

LIVEWORKSHEETS