



English – Year 5B

PAST SIMPLE vs. PAST CONTINUOUS

- 1 Read the text. What is unusual about this team photo?



In 2001, Manchester United **were preparing** for a Champions League football match. The sun **was shining** and the crowd **were cheering**. While a photographer **was taking** a photo of the team, a strange thing happened. A man walked onto the pitch and joined them. The players **weren't looking** and didn't say anything. He **was wearing** the Manchester United kit, but he wasn't a player. Who was he? Why **was he standing** with the team? Eventually, the truth came out: the man was a practical joker called Karl Power.

- 2 Look at the **past continuous** forms in the text. Then complete the table with the correct form of the verb **be**.

Past continuous	
affirmative	
I ¹ _____ reading.	We ² _____ listening.
negative	
It ³ _____ snowing.	They ⁴ _____ playing.
interrogative	
⁵ _____ you sleeping?	What ⁶ _____ he doing?

- 3 Read the *Learn this!* box. Find one example of the uses 1–3 in the text in exercise 1.

LEARN THIS!

- We use the **past continuous** to describe a scene in the past.
It was raining. The wind was blowing.
- We use the **past simple** for a sequence of actions or events that happened one after the other.
I sat down, opened my book and started to read.
- We use the **past continuous** and the **past simple** together to describe a sudden event that interrupted a longer one.
While I was having lunch, my cousin phoned.
↑ longer action ↑ interruption
- We use the **past continuous** to describe an event that was in progress at a specific moment in the past.
At 7.30 this morning, I was waiting for the bus.

- 4 Complete the text. Use the past continuous form of the verbs below.

do not rain stand take think wait

Everybody in the stadium ¹ _____ for the match to start. The players ² _____ on the pitch. Some of them ³ _____ exercises and others ⁴ _____ about the game. It was a cold night. It ⁵ _____, but the ground was wet. A lot of spectators ⁶ _____ photos with their mobile phones.

- You are going to watch a video. Before you watch it, make sure you know the meaning of **blackout**.
- Watch the first part of the video and say what the people were doing when the lights went out.
- Watch the second part of the video and answer: Why did the lights go out, according to Mr Watts? What does Gloria think happened?

5 Choose the correct option in each case.

In 1904, in the middle of a summer afternoon, Fred Lorz was running (run) the Olympic marathon. The sun ¹ _____ (shine) and it was very hot. Nine miles into the race, Fred



² _____ (feel) tired, so he ³ _____ (decide) to stop. While he ⁴ _____ (sit) next to the road, his manager ⁵ _____ (drive) past, ⁶ _____ (stop) his car, and Lorz ⁷ _____ (get) in. But eleven miles later, the car ⁸ _____ (break) down, so Lorz ⁹ _____ (start) running again. He ¹⁰ _____ (come) first in the race, but while he ¹¹ _____ (get) his gold medal, a spectator ¹² _____ (complain). Lorz ¹³ _____ (give) back the medal immediately, and said 'It ¹⁴ _____ (be) just a joke!'

7 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs.

- 1 My brother was climbing a tree when he fell and broke his leg. (climb, fall).
- 2 When my parents _____ home, we _____ a DVD. (come, watch)
- 3 Jordan _____ while my sister _____ some homework. (phone, do)
- 4 While I _____ tennis, a ball _____ me in the eye. (play, hit)
- 5 Kimberley _____ the web when she _____ a great new site. (surf, find)
- 6 While we _____ on the beach, it _____ to rain. (walk, start)

6 Complete the rule. Write *past simple*, *past continuous*, *when*, and *while*.

RULE: We use the _____ for an action that happened at one moment in the past. We often use _____ with this tense.

We use the _____ for a background action or description in the past. We often use _____ with this tense.