

Grammar

Past Simple

A Read the Past Simple sentences and underline the verbs.

- 1 We watched a documentary on the Pyramids and wrote a report about it.
- 2 James woke up at four o'clock every morning.
- 3 Agatha Christie wrote over 80 detective stories in her lifetime.

B Match the uses of the Past Simple with the sentences in A.

We can use the Past Simple for

- a an action or situation which started and finished in the past.
- b actions which happened one after the other in the past.
- c past routines and habits.

C Read the sentences and underline the verbs in the Past Continuous.

- 1 While the policeman was collecting the evidence, a reporter arrived to ask some questions.
- 2 I was reading about the crop circles while my brother was watching a DVD.
- 3 The detective was investigating the crime scene at ten o'clock this morning.

D Answer the questions.

Which sentence in C shows

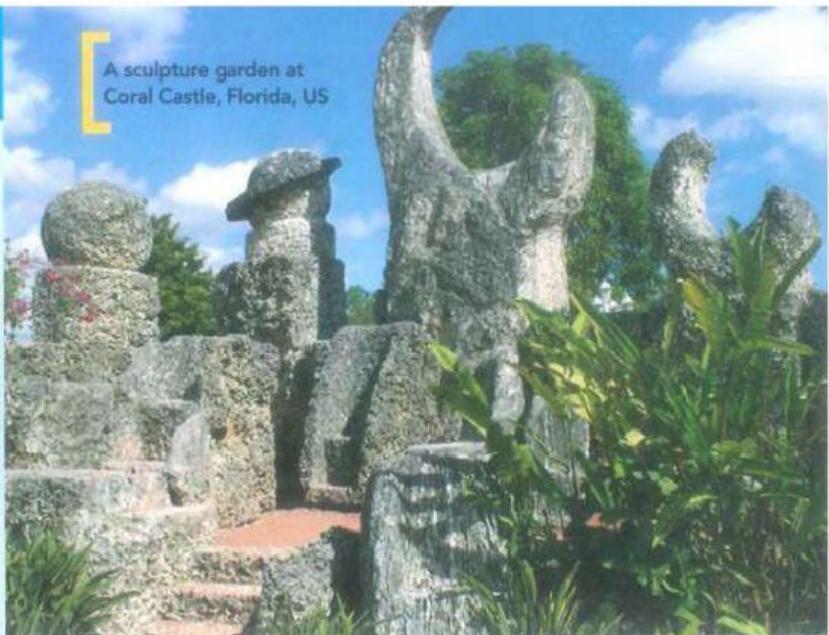
- a an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past?
- b two or more actions that were in progress at the same time in the past?
- c an action that was in progress in the past that was interrupted by another action?

Be careful

Remember that we don't use stative verbs with continuous tenses.

► Grammar Focus p.163 (2.1 & 2.2)

A sculpture garden at Coral Castle, Florida, US



E Complete the text with the correct form of the Past Simple or the Past Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

Coral Castle

The amazing Coral Castle in Florida was the creation of a very clever man named Edward Leedskalnin. Leedskalnin

(1) _____ (immigrate) to America in the early twentieth century and (2) _____ (spend) most of his life building Coral Castle. To build the castle, he (3) _____ (move) huge stone blocks all by himself. How he did this is a mystery because he (4) _____ (not allow) anyone to watch while he (5) _____ (work).

One of Leedskalnin's most spectacular creations was a nine-ton revolving door. The door was so well-balanced that it

(6) _____ (open) with the push of a finger. Nobody could understand how this worked until the door (7) _____ (break) in 1986. While engineers (8) _____ (repair) it, they found that Leedskalnin had put a part of a truck called a bearing in the centre. The engineers (9) _____ (replace) the bearing, but the door no longer opens as easily as it did originally.

In December 1951, Leedskalnin (10) _____ (realise) that he (11) _____ (suffer) from an illness and he put a notice on the gate of Coral Castle which said 'Going to the hospital'. Unfortunately, he (12) _____ (die) there three days later, but his memory lives on in his creation, which tourists can still visit.