

2B The story behind the photo

waiting for the results.



A moment in history

1 READING

- a Look at a photo which news photographer Tom Pilston took in 2008. What do you think is happening?
- b Read Tom's description of what happened on the night he took the photo. Were you right?
- c Read it again and answer the questions.
 - 1 Why did Tom Pilston go to Chicago?
 - 2 Why couldn't he take a photograph of Obama?
 - 3 What was the weather like?
 - 4 Where did he take this photo?
 - 5 Where could the people see the election results?
 - 6 Was he sorry that he couldn't go inside the center?
 - 7 What happened when Obama won?
- d Why do you think the photographer thought his photo was better than a photo of Obama himself? Do you agree?

On 4th November I arrived in Chicago late in the evening. I wanted to photograph Barack Obama and his family in the Convention Center, but when I got there I discovered that I didn't have my press pass and I couldn't go inside. I walked around the park outside the center. Although it was November, it was a warm night. The atmosphere was wonderful. When I took this photo everybody was looking at the TV screens waiting for the election results. Some people were quietly holding hands and smiling – others were tense and nervous. They felt that it was their moment. Suddenly I realized that this was a better place to be than inside. I was watching Obama's victory through the faces of all these people, African, Hispanic, Chinese, white. At about 11 o'clock the results were announced, and everybody went mad. People started laughing, shouting, and crying. But when Obama made his speech they all became quiet and emotional. There was only one place to be on the planet that night – and I was there.

Adapted from a British newspaper

2 GRAMMAR past continuous

- a Look at the **highlighted** verbs in an extract from the text. Do they describe actions that happened...?

- a after he took the photo
- b at the same time as he took the photo

When I took this photo everybody **was looking at the TV screens** waiting for the election results. Some people **were quietly holding hands and smiling** – others were tense and nervous.

- b ➤ **p.128 Grammar Bank 2B**. Learn more about the past continuous and practise it.
- c **141**) In pairs, listen to the sounds and make a sentence using the past continuous and the past simple.

They were playing tennis when it started to rain.