

Past simple and past continuous

- 4 Translate the examples. How do you say *when* and *while* in your language?

past simple and past continuous

He was watching TV **when** the hurricane arrived.

The hurricane arrived **while** he was watching TV.

We use the past simple for an action that interrupts another action in the past continuous. We usually use *when* before the past simple and *while* before the past continuous.

- 2 Choose the correct words.

Boy rescued after ten days!

Ten days after the terrible earthquake in China, rescue workers (1) **found** / **were finding** a 10-year-old boy alive. He (2) **studied** / **was studying** at school when the earthquake (3) **happened** / **was happening**. While the boy's parents (4) **waited** / **were waiting** for news, rescue workers searched the ruins of the school. They (5) **moved** / **were moving** stones and rubbish when they (6) **heard** / **were hearing** a child's cry.

- 3 Read the interview and circle the correct answers.

What were you doing?

Reporter 9/11 was the day that terrorists (1) ... the World Trade Centre in New York. Everyone (2) ... the event on television. Everyone remembers what they were doing at the time. What (3) ...?

Woman 1 I was working in my office. My husband (4) ... me and he told me the news. It was a terrible day for the whole world.

Woman 2 I (5) ... that day. My husband and I (6) ... for our holiday. We (7) ... the holiday though. We (8) ... travel by plane after September 11th.

Reporter Thank you for your time. Now, listeners, please call and tell us what you were doing ...

- 1 a) were attacking b) attacked
c) attack
- 2 a) were watching b) watched
c) was watching
- 3 a) you were doing b) you doing
c) were you doing
- 4 a) phoned b) was phoning
c) did phone
- 5 a) wasn't working b) wasn't work
c) didn't work
- 6 a) go shopping b) were shopping
c) are shopping
- 7 a) cancel b) were cancelling
c) cancelled
- 8 a) not want to b) weren't wanting to
c) didn't want to

4 Read the text and circle the correct answers.

Heavy storms forecast

This morning the Met Office told many areas of Wales to be prepared for more heavy rain and (1) It (2) ... at this time of year, but these storms are particularly bad.

In one town, residents were (3) ... all morning to drain the water from inside their homes. It (4) ... for eight hours last night and the weather forecast (5) ... not (6) ... for tomorrow.

One resident, John Davies, spoke to our reporter:

'Last night I (7) ... in my garage at about six o'clock. Suddenly water (8) ... under the garage doors. It was windy and the rain (9) ... in through the windows. (10) ... thunder and lightning as well, so it was a real storm. I think my garage is OK now but I'm (11) ... every hour.'

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|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 a) flood | b) floods | c) waters |
| 2 a) rains often heavily | b) often rains heavily | c) is often raining heavily |
| 3 a) working hard | b) working hardly | c) hard working |
| 4 a) rained heavily | b) rained heavy | c) heavily rained |
| 5 a) be | b) isn't | c) is |
| 6 a) well | b) goodly | c) good |
| 7 a) worked | b) were working | c) was working |
| 8 a) was appearing | b) appeared | c) appears |
| 9 a) was coming | b) did come | c) is coming |
| 10 a) There were | b) There was | c) There is |
| 11 a) checking careful | b) checking carefully | c) check carefully |