

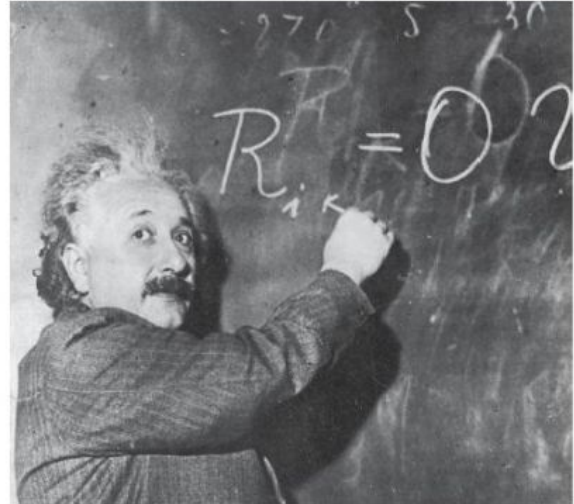
7.2 I was miles away!

The power of daydreaming

When you ¹ *suddenly realize / 're suddenly realizing* you've been daydreaming – especially when you ² *work / 're working* on a difficult problem – the usual response is to snap out of it and try to get back to work. But what scientists now ³ *understand / are understanding* is that while we ⁴ *daydream / 're daydreaming*, we are often solving problems at the same time. So daydreaming is actually one way the mind ⁵ *has / is having* of getting work done.

Albert Einstein's story is a famous example. He ⁶ *was thinking / had been thinking* about his special theory of relativity for about seven years when he finally had a breakthrough. In 1904, he ⁷ *'d been / was working* for months on complex mathematical exercises when he ⁸ *decided / was deciding* to take a break. As he rested, he ⁹ *began / was beginning* to daydream. His mind ¹⁰ *had been / was wandering* for several minutes when the image of a train formed in his brain – a train being struck by lightning. At that moment, it all ¹¹ *fell / was falling* into place. Because he ¹² *hasn't / hadn't* been trying to think about it, Einstein ¹³ *was / was being* able to produce a completely new description of the universe.

We probably ¹⁴ *won't see / won't be seeing* teachers encouraging students to stare out the window instead of doing their lessons anytime soon. But we ¹⁵ *'ll certainly see / 'll certainly be seeing* more research into the power and workings of the imagination.



5 Complete the article with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. In some cases, more than one form is correct.

'I'm not completely sure what went wrong,' says Mark Foyle. 'I ¹ *'ve been commuting* (commute) by car every day for ten years and nothing like this has ever ² _____ (happen) to me.' On 30th November last year he got quite a shock. 'One minute, I ³ _____ (drive) to work, and the next I realized I ⁴ _____ (crash) into a parked car,' he explained. The police asked Foyle if he'd ⁵ _____ (text) at the time, but he hadn't. When I thought back, he says, 'I realized I ⁶ _____

(not pay attention).' A recent study in France found that of nearly 1,000 drivers injured in car accidents, 52 per cent reported that their mind ⁷ _____ (wander) at the time that it ⁸ _____ (happen). Not surprisingly, the study also confirmed that if you ⁹ _____ (daydream) while driving, you greatly increase the likelihood of being the person responsible for the crash. 'I ¹⁰ _____ (concentrate) on the road a lot more from now on,' said Foyle. 'I'm just glad no one was hurt.'

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Grammar summary | UNIT 7

EXERCISES

1 Choose the best verb form to complete the sentences.

- 1 Sam had *been trying* / *tried* to phone you about six times before he finally got through.
- 2 I dropped my keys somewhere while I was *walking* / *walked* to work.
- 3 I'm *writing* / I *write* my final history essay right now, to hand in tomorrow.
- 4 Do you think you *'ll be living* / *live* in Barcelona a year from now?
- 5 You're *missing* / You've *missed* the bus twice this week, so leave a few minutes early today.
- 6 He's *always playing* / He *always plays* on his computer when he should be studying.
- 7 Fred *is always listening* / *always listens* to audio books while he drives to work.
- 8 I finally *was finishing* / *finished* reading War and Peace.
- 9 We haven't *tried* / *been trying* to go to the new cinema yet. Shall we go tonight?
- 10 I *wasn't thinking* / *didn't think* George's joke was funny.

2 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 1 Can I call you back in fifteen minutes? I'm having a meeting
- 2 I was just shutting down my computer
- 3 She's been working on her proposal
- 4 We had been working for about twelve hours
- 5 They'll be staying here in Singapore
- a for about six weeks, and it's nearly finished.
- b when my boss asked me to do some more work.
- c until the project is complete.
- d at the moment.
- e by the time Joe finally arrived.

3 Choose the best answer to each question.

- 1 Are you still thinking about hiring an assistant?
a Yes, I definitely am.
b Yes, I do.
c Yes, I'm thinking.
- 2 What will they be doing right now?
a They will have flown back.
b They were flying back home.
c I guess they'll be on the plane.
- 3 Had he been working all night when he finally left the office?
a Yes, he had. He was looking pretty exhausted.
b Yes, he was. But he said he'd finished.
c Yes, he did. And it wasn't the first time.
- 4 George was telling us about your new house.
a He said that? What happened then?
b Oh, really? Yes, we were lucky to find it.
c I know he is. I think he really likes it!
- 5 I heard you're teaching in Spain now.
a Yes, you're right. I'm going there next month.
b Yes, that's right. I started the job last month.
c Yes, that's correct. I've been there for nearly twenty years.
- 6 And that's only the beginning!
a Sorry, are you saying? The band is too loud!
b Sorry, what will you be saying? It's the music!
c Sorry, what were you saying? I didn't quite hear.

4 Complete the sentences using the correct continuous form of the verbs.

- 1 She wasn't listening (not listen) to the teacher because she was extremely tired.
- 2 This time next year, I _____ (work) in Australia.
- 3 They _____ (live) in New York for six years before they finally met their neighbours.
- 4 I _____ (spend) a lot of time this week preparing for my next trip.
- 5 We _____ (have) dinner when Beata's phone call came through.
- 6 If it's six o'clock, Luke _____ (arrive) in Singapore.
- 7 Larry _____ (drive) a lorry for the past fifteen years.
- 8 I _____ (travel) for three weeks when I realized my passport was out of date.

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5 Complete the questions to which the sentences in Exercise 4 might be answers. Use the continuous form.

- 1 Why wasn't she listening to the teacher?
- 2 This time next year, _____?
- 3 How long _____ met their neighbours?
- 4 How _____ your time this week?
- 5 What _____ phoned?
- 6 What _____ right now?
- 7 How long _____ a lorry?
- 8 How long _____ out of date?

6 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

- 1 He's living in London since 2012.

- 2 Right now, I try to repair my computer.

- 3 This time last year, I'm working for Exxon.

- 4 When she's graduating from university in two years, she'll be looking for her first job.

- 5 I've been trying to find the office for 45 minutes when I finally got there.

- 6 I had a nap when the phone woke me up.
