2D

Grammar

Contrast: past simple and past continuous

I can distinguish the use of the past simple and the past continuous.

1 Choose the correct tense to complete the sentences.

1 Jake looked at the weather outside: it was grey, but it **didn't rain / wasn't raining**.
2 You didn't answer when I phoned you this morning. What **did you do / were you doing**?
3 Lucy switched off her computer, **put on / was putting on** her coat and **left / was leaving** the office.
4 She closed the window because some children **made / were making** a lot of noise outside.
5 When I told my friends about the robbery, they **didn't believe / weren't believing** me.
6 She didn't hear the doorbell because she **had / was having** a shower.

2 Complete the sentences. Use the past simple form of one verb and the past continuous form of the other.

1 I _____ (see) Henry as I _____ (cycle) to the sports centre.
2 While we _____ (prepare) the picnic, it _____ (start) to rain.
3 All my friends _____ (leave) the party when I _____ (arrive).
4 As we _____ (walk) by the river, we _____ (hear) a shout.
5 We _____ (not eat) very much while we _____ (stay) in that hotel.
6 I _____ (drink) my dad's coffee while he _____ (not look).
7 She _____ (drop) her new phone as she _____ (put) it in her pocket.
8 I _____ (meet) a really interesting person while I _____ (wait) for the bus.

3 Complete the text with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

In January 2014, a doctor from New Zealand [1]had (have) a frightening experience with a shark – but his calm reaction [2]_____ (make) him the star of news reports around the world.

James Grant [3]_____ (fish) with friends one Saturday when a shark attacked him. He [4]_____ (not see) anything, but he [5]_____ (felt) a sudden pain in his leg. At first, he thought that his friends [6]_____ (play) a prank on him. He [7]_____ (turn) around – but nobody [8]_____ (be) behind him. Then he [9]_____ (realise) what [10]_____ (happen).

Luckily, James [11]_____ (carry) a knife so he [12]_____ (use) it to fight off the shark. Then he [13]_____ (get) out of the water and [14]_____ (look) at his leg. The bites were 5 cm long and they [15]_____ (bleed) a lot. James [16]_____ (clean) his leg. Then he and his friends [17]_____ (go) to a nearby café! While they [18]_____ (enjoy) a drink, somebody [19]_____ (give) James a bandage because his leg [20]_____ (bleed). He [21]_____ (go) to hospital for some treatment, but on Monday he was back at work.

4 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first.

1 I hurt my finger while I was playing the guitar.
I was playing the guitar when I hurt my finger.
2 I was walking home when it started to rain.
While I _____.
3 She broke her leg while she was learning to ski.
She was learning _____.
4 He was making lunch when he suddenly felt ill.
As he _____.
5 She was telling me about her party when she started to laugh loudly.
She started _____
_____.
6 I lost my wallet while I was shopping.
While I _____.
7 As the band were playing their first song, all the lights went out.
The band were playing _____
_____.

5 Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Use the past simple or past continuous.

1 As I was getting off the bus, _____
_____.
2 We were trying to find our hotel when _____
_____.
3 An amazing thing happened as _____
_____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS