

## 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 <sup>1</sup>had (have) a frightening experience with a shark – but his calm reaction <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (make) him the star of news reports around the world.

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



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Luckily, James <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) a knife so he <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (use) it to fight off the shark.Then he <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (get) out of the water and <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at his leg. The biteswere 5 cm long and they <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (bleed) a lot. James <sup>16</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) his leg.

Then he and his friends <sup>17</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to a nearby café! While they <sup>18</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) a drink, somebody <sup>19</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (give) James a bandage because his leg <sup>20</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (bleed). He <sup>21</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to hospital for some treatment, but on Monday he was back at work.