

# A2 PAST SIMPLE VS PAST CONTINUOUS NEWS STORY

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

The Past Simple expresses a completed action in the past.

Ed walked the Amazon. He began his journey in 2008.

Complete the question and negative.

When ..... the journey begin?

They.....finish the journey until 2010. (negative)

The Past Continuous expresses an activity in progress in the past.

Cho was working in the forest when he met Ed.

Compare these sentences.

I had a shower last night. (= simple, completed action)

I was having a shower when the phone rang. (= interrupted activity)



1 10 August

## Emergency exit for flight attendant who lost his cool

Flight attendant Steven Slater made an emergency exit from an Airbus after he had an argument with a passenger.

The incident happened at New York's JFK Airport soon after the JetBlue flight from Pittsburgh landed.

As the Airbus A320 was taxiing slowly on the runway, a passenger stood up to get her luggage. Mr Slater told her to sit down, but she refused. The businesswoman was taking her case out of the overhead locker when it hit Mr Slater on the head.

He started bleeding, and it was then that the flight attendant lost his temper. He marched to the front of the cabin and spoke furiously over the plane's PA system, saying, "That's enough! After 28 years in this business, I quit!"

He then took two beers from a fridge, opened the door and activated the plane's emergency chute and jumped onto it. Mr Slater then ran to his car and drove home.

Police arrested Mr Slater at his home a short time later.

- 1 When and where did the incident happen?
- 2 What did the female passenger do?
- 3 What did the flight attendant say to her?
- 4 What did she do to him? How did he react?
- 5 How did Steven Slater leave the plane?

### Discussion

- Was this a very important story?
- Why do you think it was in the newspapers?

Your Answer



2 11 August

## Angry flight attendant becomes Facebook hero

The flight attendant Steven Slater, who left his plane via the emergency exit, is becoming a folk hero in the US.

Last night a 'Free Steven Slater' page on Facebook had 170,000 fans. People wrote how much they admired him. 'I would dearly love to quit my job like you did!' is the message from many.

Tens of thousands of people, including other cabin crew, left messages of support.

'You only did what everyone else feels like doing,' wrote one.

Slater appeared in court in New York yesterday and pleaded not guilty to charges of criminal damage and endangering life. He could face up to seven years in prison.

- 1 What did people think of Steven the next day?
- 2 How did they show their support?
- 3 Why did the public admire him?
- 4 What did other cabin crew say?

### Discussion

- Why did people think he was a hero?

Your Answer

3 12 August

## Steven Slater thanks public

Flight attendant Steven Slater, 39, who left his job after an attack by a passenger, said he was amazed by the public sympathy he received.

Slater has messages from millions of people all over the world.

He said, 'I really appreciate this enormous support.'

As he was leaving a Bronx police station, people were shouting 'You're a hero!' T-shirts that read FREE STEVEN SLATER are on sale.

JetBlue confirmed that Slater was still an employee, but suspended from duty.

- 1 How did Steven feel?
- 2 How did people show their support?
- 3 Where was he?

### Discussion

- How is it possible that this story went round the world in two days?

Your Answer



4 15 August

## Folk hero Slater relaxes on the beach

Ex-flight attendant Steven Slater spent the weekend relaxing on the beach. He was having a couple of beers and enjoying his new worldwide fame as the latest American folk hero.

The 39-year-old was wearing a grey T-shirt, white shorts, and a

baseball cap as he talked to excited fans on the beach near his home in New York.

Yesterday supporters shouted, 'Good for you, Steve!' and 'We love you!' as he sat down on a chair, took off his shirt, and put on his sunglasses.

5 16 August

## Ex-flight attendant to get TV Show

Steven Slater is in talks to get his own reality show. TV production company Stone Entertainment wants to give the flight attendant the chance to star in a program that shows unhappy workers how to leave their job.

- 1 What is Steven called in the headline?
- 2 What actually happened on the beach?

### Discussion

- Why was this day's story in the papers?
- What did Steven Slater do to deserve being called a folk hero?

- 1 How is Steven going to become more famous?
- 2 What will the program be about?

### Discussion

- Why did a TV production company want to give him a show?

Your Answer

Your Answer

