

GRAMMAR Past simple and continuous

1 Choose the correct verb forms.

A young woman ¹ *became / was becoming* a local hero yesterday. Shelley O'Reilley ² *worked / was working* at a hairdresser's in New York, USA, when two young men in their mid-twenties ³ *walked / were walking* in. They ⁴ *stole / were stealing* a phone that belonged to a young girl.

Shelley said, 'I ⁵ *was cleaning / cleaned* the floors. They ⁶ *were leaving / left* the hairdresser's and, as they ⁷ *walked / were walking* towards the door, they kept looking back at me.' She ⁸ *guessed / was guessing* what they ⁹ *did / were doing*.

She ¹⁰ *ran / was running* out of the hairdresser's and, as they ¹¹ *got / were getting* into their car, she put her foot in the door so that they couldn't shut it. One of them tried to hit her but then Shelley ¹² *saw / was seeing* a police car. The police quickly ¹³ *stopped / were stopping* the thieves.

2 Choose the best answer in each sentence.

- 1 What were you doing yesterday at 5 pm?
 - a I listened to music and did my homework.
 - b I was listening to music and doing my homework.
- 2 Who were you talking to this morning?
 - a My Mum phoned because she wanted me to buy some bread.
 - b My Mum was phoning me because she wanted me to buy some bread.
- 3 What happened to your foot?
 - a I was playing football and fell over.
 - b I was playing football and was falling over.
- 4 Did you enjoy the dinner last night?
 - a Yes, it was great. I was eating pizza.
 - b Yes, it was great. I ate pizza.
- 5 Did you hear the doorbell?
 - a No, I was sleeping.
 - b No, I slept.

3 Make sentences using the past simple or past continuous.

- 1 I / have breakfast / with / my family / at 7 am.
.....
- 2 Those boys / take / photos / their pets / for two hours.
.....
- 3 Mum / tell / us / a story about / Grandma / when / her phone / ring.
.....
- 4 In the picture / the little boy / point at / the plane / in the sky.
.....
- 5 Mark / not wave / at Julie / because / not / see her.
.....
- 6 You / not wear / a blue T-shirt this morning - / it / red.
.....



4 Complete the conversation with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in the box.

be	get	imagine	look	love
run	see	sing	take	think

A: That's a good photo. Tell me about it!

B: I ¹ before school down the road - late as usual! It ² a beautiful day and the birds ³ I ⁴ about my English homework. I had to write a story about a photo. I didn't know what to write. You know, when you have no ideas! But then I ⁵ up and I ⁶ this amazing hot air balloon above me! I ⁷ out my phone and ⁸ a photo.

A: Did you write about it for your homework?

B: I did! I ⁹ the lives of the people in the balloon. My teacher ¹⁰ the story! I got a great mark!

5 Correct the mistakes in these sentences or tick (✓) any you think are correct.

- 1 They played games in the game centre when I saw them.
.....
- 2 On Saturday, although it was raining, I went to the fun fair with my friends.
.....
- 3 In the evening we were going to cinemas and theatres.
.....
- 4 It was summer but it snowed when I woke up.
.....
- 5 I arrived home in the morning, then I was sleeping all day.
.....