

Past simple and past continuous (I did and I was doing)

11

Last week John went to Scotland on a business trip. Read his diary for last week. Then complete the report he sent to his boss using the past simple.

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6 MARCH
Thursday

am	- fly to Edinburgh - have lunch with Scottish sales team
pm	- visit two factories - discuss last series of adverts with marketing manager (not keen on them)

7 MARCH
Friday

am	- drive to Glasgow - meet architects – look at new office plans
pm	- go to see new office building - invite architects to dinner (not free) - catch overnight train to London

From: John Hutchings
To: Simon Sato
Subject: Visit to Scotland 6 & 7 March

I (1) flew to Edinburgh on Thursday morning and (2) lunch with the Scottish sales team. Then I (3) our two factories there and (4) our last series of adverts with the marketing manager. He (5) keen on them, unfortunately.

On Friday morning I (6) to Glasgow and (7) the architects. We (8) at the new office plans and in the afternoon we (9) to see the new office building. I (10) the architects to dinner, but they (11) free. I (12) the overnight train back to London.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Lucky accidents

Is it true that Sir Isaac Newton understood gravity because an apple (1) fell / was falling on his head when he (2) lay / was lying under a tree in his garden? Probably not. However, many great and small discoveries are the result of lucky accidents ...

One day in 1879 chemist Constantin Fahlberg (3) didn't wash / wasn't washing his hands before dinner. While he (4) ate / was eating he (5) noticed / was noticing that the bread (6) tasted / was tasting sweet. The sweetness was saccharin.

Alexander Fleming (7) became / was becoming interested in the control of bacteria while he (8) worked / was working as a doctor during the First World War. In 1928 he (9) tidied / was tidying his laboratory when he (10) saw / was seeing that one of the dirty dishes (11) didn't have / wasn't having any bacteria on it, but that something else (12) grew / was growing there. It was penicillin.

In 1930 dietician Ruth Wakefield (13) prepared / was preparing some cookies for guests when she (14) realised / was realising that she had no chocolate powder. She (15) decided / was deciding to use small pieces of ordinary chocolate instead. The chocolate pieces (16) didn't melt / wasn't melting, and the first chocolate chip cookies were a great success.

Dr Percy Spencer was a physicist in the 1940s who probably enjoyed chocolate chip cookies. He (17) walked / was walking past some equipment in the laboratory when he (18) felt / was feeling something strange in his pocket. It was his chocolate bar and it (19) melted / was melting. This accident (20) led / was leading to the invention of a new piece of cooking equipment – the microwave oven.

From: Ada

To: Becky

Subject: Naomi

Hi Becky,

Guess what, my sister Naomi is married! She (1) got (get) home from her round the world trip last week with a husband!! She (2) (meet) him when she (3) (travel) round New Zealand. One afternoon, while her friends (4) (shop), she (5) (go) to look round an art gallery. She (6) (look) at a small sculpture when a young man (7) (come) into the room and he (8) (start) to put it into his rucksack. She (9) (call) the security guard because she (10) (think) the man (11) (try) to steal it. She (12) (be) really embarrassed to discover that he (13) (not steal) it – it (14) (belong) to him! Anyway, he (15) (not mind) and he (16) (ask) her to go for a coffee. They (17) (get married) a month later in Bali. We (18) (not know) anything about it! Can you believe it? He's really nice and they are very happy together!

Love, Ada

Here is part of the website of a rock star called Aidan Flanagan. Put the verbs into the correct form: past simple or past continuous.



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Aidan Flanagan was born in 1994 in Bray near Dublin, Ireland. In 2011 he became very seriously ill. While he (1) was recovering (recover) at home, his uncle (2) (give) him an old drumkit. He enjoyed playing and practised in a friend's garage every evening. One day in 2013, John Leaf, the manager of several successful musicians, (3) (pass) the garage when he (4) (hear) Aidan practising. He (5) (bang) on the garage door and (6) (invite) Aidan to appear in one of the concerts he (7) (organise) that year. Aidan, however, (8) (not accept) Leaf's invitation, because at that time he (9) (prepare) for some important school exams.



Aidan (10) (pass) his exams and (11) (go) to university to study engineering. There he (12) (meet) Kim O'Malley, who (13) (study) chemistry. Kim played the saxophone. Being students, they (14) (not have) much money and they usually (15) (work) as waiters at weekends.

One evening in April 2016, while Aidan and Kim (16) (serve) customers, the manager (17) (announce) that there would be no live music in the restaurant that night as the regular band could not come. Aidan and Kim (18) (persuade) the manager to let them play. All the customers and staff (19) (be) amazed to hear how good their music (20) (be). In the next six months Aidan and Kim (21) (earn) so much money they (22) (decide) to leave university and go on tour. Their success has continued ever since.

Choose the correct alternative.

ADAM: Hello, Mike. What (1) are you doing / do you do in my part of London?

MIKE: Well, actually, (2) I'm looking / I look at these new flats (3) they're building / they build down the road here.

ADAM: Well, (4) they're looking / they look quite cool, but (5) I'm thinking / I think they're quite expensive. So (6) are you wanting / do you want to move to this area?

MIKE: Yes. In fact, well, the news is that Mandy and I (7) are getting / get married.

ADAM: Oh, wow! Congratulations. When (8) were you deciding / did you decide?

MIKE: Only last week. It was while (9) we were staying / we stayed with her family in Scotland. Now (10) we try / we're trying to find a suitable flat.

ADAM: I hope you manage to buy one of these.

MIKE: Oh, (11) we aren't looking / we don't look for one to buy. (12) We aren't having / We don't have enough money yet. (13) We're wanting / We want to rent one.

ADAM: Yes, of course. That's what Anna and I (14) did / were doing at first. After that, my brother (15) was lending / lent us some money. That's how (16) we were managing / we managed to buy ours.

MIKE: You're right. We must talk to our families before (17) we choose / we're choosing a flat.

ADAM: Yeah, my family (18) gave / were giving us a lot of help and advice. Now, what about a sandwich at my place? It's just round the corner.

MIKE: Oh yes, thanks. (19) I looked / I was looking for somewhere to eat when (20) I was bumping / I bumped into you.

