# Past continuous

**a** Read

In 1972, Jane was living in London and she was working for an advertising agency.

When Cartier-Bresson took the photo, Jane and her boyfriend were looking at an owl in a tree.

**Look at the highlighted verbs. Which verbs describe...?**

1 an action in progress at a specific moment in the past

2 the situation at the beginning of the story

**b** Complete the sentences with the verb in the past continuous.

I was eating dinner, so I didn't answer the phone. (eat)

1 I took this photo when we _____ in Greece. (travel)

2 He met his wife when he _____ in Japan. (live)

3 _____ she _____ a coat when she went out? (wear)

4 The sun _____ when I went to work. (shine)

5 What _____ you _____ at 7.30 last night? (do)

6 I _____ when you gave the instructions. (not listen)

7 They _____ TV when I arrived. (not watch)

8 It started to rain when we _____ in the park. (run)

**c** Complete the sentences with a verb from the list in the correct past continuous form.

do get not live not rain walk work

1 Amy was walking in the park at 10.30 yesterday.

2 _____ you and Jack _____ in the same office when you first met?

3 Why didn't you answer the phone last night? What _____?

4 It _____ when I left home this morning.

5 I _____ in Prague in 2017.

6 I dropped my passport when I _____ into the taxi.

**d** The police are at an art gallery because someone stole a famous painting at 5.30 yesterday afternoon. What were the people in the pictures doing at the time? Write sentences.

1 clean Gallery 6

I was cleaning Gallery 6.

2 try to find the exit

We _____.

3 close the windows

I _____.

4 wash the coffee cups

We _____.

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5 count the money

I _____.

6 What were you doing at 5.30 yesterday?

I _____.

**e** Put the verbs into the past simple or past continuous.

She arrived when we were having dinner. (arrive, have)

1 I _____ my arm when I _____ football. (break, play)

2 _____ you _____ fast when the police _____ you? (drive, stop)

3 It _____ when we _____ the pub. (snow, leave)

4 I _____ the match because I _____. (not see, work)

5 When you _____ me, I _____ to my boss. (call, talk)

6 We _____ in Cambridge when we _____. (study, meet)

7 _____ they _____ in Rome when they _____ their first baby? (live, have)

**f** Write sentences with *when*. Use the past simple and past continuous.

1 Tommy / fall off his bike / cycle home

Tommy fell off his bike when he was cycling home.

2 Mark / talk on the phone / get a text

_____

3 The children / play computer games / the visitors arrive

_____

4 We / have a barbecue / it start to rain

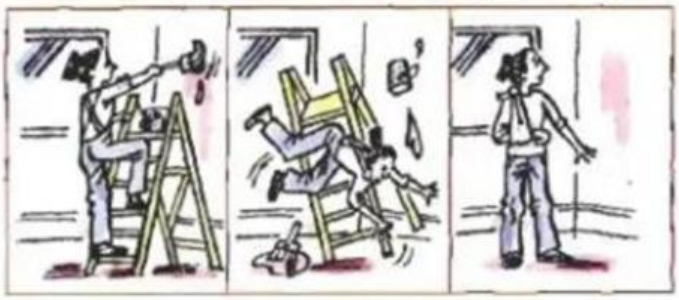
_____

5 I / write a report / my computer crash

_____

**Look at the pictures. Put the verbs in the correct form, past continuous or past simple.**

1



Lucy broke (break) her arm last week. It ..... (happen) when she ..... (paint) her room. She ..... (fall) off the ladder.

2

The train ..... (arrive) at the station and Paula ..... (get) off. Two friends of hers, Jon and Rachel, ..... (wait) to meet her.

3

Yesterday Sue ..... (walk) along the road when she ..... (meet) James. He ..... (go) to the station to catch a train and he ..... (carry) a bag. They ..... (stop) to talk for a few minutes.

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