

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

Past simple and past continuous
with *when*, *while* and *as*



- 1 Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs in the box.

do look not watch
rain sleep work

- 1 I was sleeping at 11 o'clock last night.
That's why I didn't check my emails.
- 2 It rain yesterday, so I didn't go out.
- 3 My mum was working late at the office and came home late.
- 4 I was looking for clothes online, but I didn't see anything I liked.
- 5 What was you doing in the kitchen? I heard a strange noise.
- 6 She was watching videos on the computer – she was studying!



- 2 Complete the conversation with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

- EMMA Hey, Ben! ¹Did you have (you / have) a nice holiday?
- BEN Hmm, not bad. I ²helped (help) my uncle in his shop.
- EMMA Why ³did (you / do) that?
- BEN Because my aunt ⁴was (be) ill, and he ⁵didn't have (not have) time to go to the shop every day.
- EMMA Wow! That's really kind of you.
⁶Was (it / be) difficult?
- BEN Yeah. But my uncle ⁷gave (give) me some money after, so I ⁸bought (buy) some new clothes.
- EMMA Cool!



- 3 Write sentences with the past simple and past continuous and the words in brackets.

1 I / sleep / you / call / me last night (when)

I was sleeping when you called me last night.

2 he / finish / his book / he / wait / for the bus (as)

3 we / live / in London / we / go / to lots of museums (while)

4 she / not see / the car / she / cross / the street (when)

5 I / not cry / I / watch / that inspirational film (while)

6 they / say / goodbye / they / leave / the party (as)



- 4 Circle the correct options.



One day my wife was ill, so I ¹drove / was driving to the chemist to get some medicine. While I ²walked / was walking back to the car, I noticed that I ³didn't have / wasn't having my keys. They were still in the car with my phone! I ⁴kicked / was kicking the wheels of my car when a teenager ⁵was arriving / arrived on his bike and ⁶asked / was asking what was wrong. I told him the story and I ⁷explained / was explaining that we had another car key at home, but it was five miles away. The boy said, 'I'll get the keys' and then ⁸gave / was giving me his phone to call my wife to explain what was happening. After 30 minutes, he ⁹came / was coming back with the keys. As I ¹⁰opened / was opening my car, he rode away – before I could thank him!

- 5 Write a short paragraph in your notebook about a time when someone helped you or you helped someone. Use the past simple and past continuous.