

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 _____ yesterday, so I didn't go out.
- 3 My mum _____ late at the office and came home late.
- 4 I _____ for clothes online, but I didn't see anything I liked.
- 5 What _____ you _____ in the kitchen? I heard a strange noise.
- 6 She _____ videos on the computer – she was studying!

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

- EMMA Hey, Ben! ¹*Did you have* (you / have) a nice holiday?
- BEN Hmm, not bad. I ² _____ (help) my uncle in his shop.
- EMMA Why ³ _____ (you / do) that?
- BEN Because my aunt ⁴ _____ (be) ill, and he ⁵ _____ (not have) time to go to the shop every day.
- EMMA Wow! That's really kind of you. ⁶ _____ (it / be) difficult?
- BEN Yeah. But my uncle ⁷ _____ (give) me some money after, so I ⁸ _____ (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 ²*walked* / *was walking* back to the car, I noticed that I ³*didn't have* / *wasn't having* my keys. They were still in the car with my phone! I ⁴*kicked* / *was kicking* the wheels of my car when a teenager ⁵*was arriving* / *arrived* on his bike and ⁶*asked* / *was asking* what was wrong. I told him the story and I ⁷*explained* / *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 ⁸*gave* / *was giving* me his phone to call my wife to explain what was happening. After 30 minutes, he ⁹*came* / *was coming* back with the keys. As I ¹⁰*opened* / *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.