

Earthquake!

In pairs, read the story. Then choose the correct form of the verbs, past simple or past continuous.

1 James **did** / **was doing** his homework in his bedroom when the earthquake **started** / **was starting** at 6.15 p.m.

2 He **sat** / **was sitting** at his desk when the chair **started** / **was starting** to move across the floor.

3 When the floor **stopped** / **was stopping** moving, James **ran** / **was running** to find his mother.

4 His mother **cooked** / **was cooking** when the earthquake **started** / **was starting**.

5 When he **found** / **was finding** his mother, she **stood** / **was standing** in front of the cooker.

She was OK, but the kitchen was a mess!

6 They **decided** / **were deciding** to look outside. Outside, they **saw** / **were seeing** some trees on the ground and they heard voices calling for help.

7 The hospital was very busy that evening, but nobody **died** / **was dying**.

8 It wasn't a very bad earthquake. It only **measured** / **was measuring** 5.5.

Write the letters from over the correct answers to find out the name of the American scientist who invented a scale for measuring earthquakes in 1935.

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