

# Earthquake!

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

1 James <sup>M</sup> *did* / <sup>C</sup> *was doing* his homework in his bedroom when the earthquake <sup>H</sup> *started* / <sup>A</sup> *was starting* at 6.15 p.m.

2 He <sup>J</sup> *sat* / <sup>A</sup> *was sitting* at his desk when the chair <sup>R</sup> *started* / <sup>A</sup> *was starting* to move across the floor.

3 When the floor <sup>L</sup> *stopped* / <sup>M</sup> *was stopping* moving, James <sup>E</sup> *ran* / <sup>R</sup> *was running* to find his mother.

4 His mother <sup>D</sup> *cooked* / <sup>S</sup> *was cooking* when the earthquake <sup>R</sup> *started* / <sup>S</sup> *was starting*.

5 When he <sup>I</sup> *found* / <sup>T</sup> *was finding* his mother, she <sup>Y</sup> *stood* / <sup>C</sup> *was standing* in front of the cooker.

She was OK, but the kitchen was a mess!

6 They <sup>H</sup> *decided* / <sup>R</sup> *were deciding* to look outside. Outside, they <sup>T</sup> *saw* / <sup>I</sup> *were seeing* some trees on the ground and they heard voices calling for help.

7 The hospital was very busy that evening, but nobody <sup>E</sup> *died* / <sup>N</sup> *was dying*.

8 It wasn't a very bad earthquake. It only <sup>R</sup> *measured* / <sup>G</sup> *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.

**C H** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

