6.4 Grammar

Past Continuous and Past Simple

GRAMMAR Past Continuous and Past Simple

+	I was cycling in the park. She was jumping. They were playing football.	
–	I wasn't running. She wasn't swimming. They weren't playing well.	
?	Were you cycling? Was she jumping? Were they playing?	Yes, I was./No, I wasn't. Yes, she was./No, she wasn't. Yes, they were./No, they weren't.
	What was she doing yesterday at 5 p.m.?	

Past Simple and Past Continuous

While/When/As I was watching the match, a dog ran in front of me.

I was watching the match when a dog ran in front of me.

1 ● Choose the correct option.

1 I *wasn't* / *didn't* talking to Danny when you saw me.
2 Jake *is* / *was* doing his homework during the lesson.
3 The students were *eating* / *eat* chips and salad.
4 *Was he* / *He was* playing well in the match?
5 *Was* / *Did* the teacher explaining a difficult grammar point?
6 You were having lunch when Sammy *arrived* / *was arriving*.

2 ●● Match the sentence halves.

1 [f] We were walking across the park
2 [ ] While I was eating my dinner
3 [ ] When I went downstairs
4 [ ] I fell asleep
5 [ ] Jack was singing a song in the concert
6 [ ] My brother wasn't skiing

a I dropped red sauce on my shirt.
b when he broke his ankle.
c Dad was cooking breakfast.
d when he fell off the stage.
e while I was reading my book.
f ~~when it started to rain.~~

3 ●● Complete the sentences with the Past Continuous or the Past Simple form of the verbs in brackets.

1 We *were eating* (eat) dinner outside when the rain *started* (start).
2 The students _____ (do) an exercise when the bell _____ (ring).
3 While I _____ (shop) on Saturday I _____ (meet) an old friend.
4 When I _____ (arrive) home my sister _____ (watch) a film on television.
5 I _____ (not look) when Paul _____ (fall) off his bicycle. I _____ (talk) to Marie.
6 What _____ (you/do) when I _____ (phone) you last night?

4 ●●● Complete the text with the correct past forms of the verbs below.

call chat fall go (x2) hurt look read ride say see not see sit (x2) start ~~wake~~

A surprising meeting

When I [1]*woke* up yesterday my head [2]_____, so I [3]_____ to see the doctor. I [4]_____ in the waiting room and I [5]_____ a magazine when suddenly someone [6]_____ 'Hello Pat!' I [7]_____ up and it was Terry Marsden. I last [8]_____ him five years ago at my first school! He [9]_____ down beside me and we [10]_____ chatting. Last week he [11]_____ his horse when he [12]_____ off! While we [13]_____, the doctor [14]_____ out 'Terry Marsden' and he [15]_____ in to see the doctor. I [16]_____ him later – I hope he was OK.

I can use the Past Continuous and the Past Simple to tell a story about past events.

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