2.2 GRAMMAR

Past Continuous and Past Simple

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

1 Complete the sentences with the Past Simple forms of the verbs in brackets.

1 Graeme [a] *went* (go) online this morning and [b] _____ (buy) tickets for the concert.

2 Simone and Kay [a] _____ (be) very busy all day yesterday. They [b] _____ (not/have) time for a break.

3 [a] _____ (Carly/be) at the Science club last week?
[b] _____ (she/give) her presentation?

4 [a] _____ (you/download) those games recently?
[b] _____ (they/be) free?

2 ★ Complete the dialogue between a policeman and Steve with the Past Continuous forms of the verbs in brackets.

At the police station …

P: What *were you doing* (do) at six o'clock on the 23rd of October?
S: Erm … I don't remember. I think I was at home. Yes, I [1] _____ (watch) TV.
P: Was anyone at home with you?
S: No, nobody. It was just me. I [2] _____ (not/work) that day.
P: I see. So nobody saw you at home at 6 p.m. that day?
S: Oh … er … yes of course. Silly me! My wife was there too. She [3] _____ (make) dinner in the kitchen.
P: And what about your children?
S: Oh yeah, the kids! They [4] _____ (do/homework) upstairs in their bedrooms.
P: And your mother-in-law?
S: Oh yes, of course. Er … She [5] _____ (stand) in the kitchen.
P: I see. So, can you explain why we have pictures of you waiting in your car outside the bank at 6 p.m.?

3 ★ Complete the sentences with the Past Continuous forms of the verbs in brackets.

Alexander Graham Bell *was experimenting* (experiment) in his laboratory when he made the first successful telephone call.

1 _____ (Archimedes/have) a bath when he shouted 'Eureka!'?
2 Mark Zuckerberg _____ (study) at Harvard University when he created Facebook.
3 _____ (Isaac Newton/sit) under an apple tree when he thought of his theory of gravity?
4 Marie Curie _____ (not/live) in Poland when she won her first Nobel Prize in 1903.

4 ★★ Choose the correct forms.

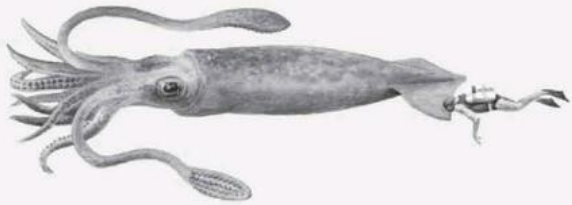
1 Sorry, I [a] *had / was having* a shower when you [b] *called / were calling*.
2 [a] *Did Lola stand / Was Lola standing* outside when it [b] *started / was starting* to rain?
3 When the car [a] *crashed / was crashing* into us, we [b] *waited / were waiting* at the traffic lights.
4 Fortunately, we [a] *didn't ski / weren't skiing* when the bad weather [b] *came / was coming*.

5 ★★★ Complete the story with the Past Simple or Past Continuous forms of the verbs in brackets.

What *were you doing* (you/do) the last time you [1] _____ (see) something truly amazing? Well, fisherman and journalist Al McGlashan [2] _____ (fish) with friends in his private boat when he [3] _____ (find) something very, very strange. At first the group of fishermen [4] _____ (not/know) what it was, but when they [5] _____ (look) closely, they saw the body of a giant squid – almost 4 metres long!

Al got out his video camera and then another amazing thing [6] _____ (happen). He [7] _____ (film) the squid when a large blue shark [8] _____ (arrive) and began eating the dead squid for lunch!

Al [9] _____ (tell) an Australian newspaper that in all his years of fishing he'd never seen anything like it.



SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

6 Find and correct the mistakes.

He ~~was clicking~~ on an icon and nothing happened. *clicked*

1 Tom was downloading music when his computer was getting the virus. _____
2 Annabelle visited the zoo when she saw an elephant for the first time. _____
3 Grandma, were you watching television when Apollo 11 was landing on the moon? _____
4 They were waiting for the bus when it was starting to snow. _____
5 The girls were playing tennis when Helen was breaking her arm. _____
6 Was the computers working this morning when you arrived? _____

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LIVEWORKSHEETS