Photographs are pictures taken to please the family and bore the neighbors.
Edmund Volkart, American sociologist

2B The story behind the photo

1 GRAMMAR past continuous

a Complete the sentences with the verbs in parentheses in the past continuous.

1 You *were laughing* (laugh) when I took the photo.
2 It _____ (snow) when our plane landed.
3 We _____ (not drive) fast when the accident happened.
4 What _____ (he / do) when his boss arrived?
5 Why _____ (you / cry) at the party?
6 I _____ (sit) on the bus when I saw my boss.
7 They _____ (live) in Brazil when their first child was born.
8 He didn't call you because his cell phone _____ (not work).

b Write sentences with *when*. Use the simple past and past continuous.

1 They / argue / the waiter / bring / the check
They were arguing when the waiter brought the check.



2 He / fall / off his bike / cycle / home
_____
_____.



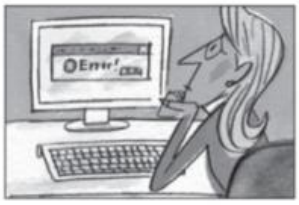
3 The children / play / video games / the guests / arrive
_____
_____.



4 We / have / a barbecue / it / start / to rain
_____
_____.



5 I / finish / my report / my computer / crash
_____
_____.



c Complete the story with the simple past or past continuous.

Last summer, I [1] *went* (go) to Los Angeles to stay with my cousin for a few weeks. One afternoon, we [2] _____ (have) lunch in a nice restaurant when my cousin [3] _____ (get) a call on her cell phone and went outside to talk. While she [4] _____ (speak) to her friend, I suddenly [5] _____ (notice) a man in a black hat who [6] _____ (sit) at the next table. It was the actor Johnny Depp! He was alone, and I [7] _____ (decide) to take my chance. So I got up and [8] _____ (go) to his table. "Excuse me, could I have my photo taken with you?" I asked. He [9] _____ (say) yes, so I [10] _____ (stop) a waitress who [11] _____ (pass) by and gave her my camera. She [12] _____ (take) the photo of me and Johnny. I thanked them both, and then I returned to my table. When my cousin [13] _____ (come) back, I [14] _____ (smile).

"Why are you looking so happy?" she asked.

"I had my photo taken with Johnny Depp."

"Johnny Depp? Where is he?"

"He's sitting over there. Look!'

She turned around to look and then started to laugh.

"That's not Johnny Depp!"

I [15] _____ (look) at the man in the black hat – he [16] _____ (laugh), too.

Source: American English File

LIVEWORKSHEETS