

12 It's a long story.

1 Describe what these people were doing when a fire alarm went off in their apartment building last night. Use the past continuous.



1. Carolyn was washing the dishes when the fire alarm went off.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

2 Drag and drop the actions in the past continuous tense into the correct time box to show what you were doing at those moments yesterday.

At 9:00 A.M.

At 9:00 A.M., I was having
breakfast at a coffee shop
with my friends.

Around noon

Around noon, I
_____ lunch
for my family.

About 10:00 last night

About 10:00 last night, I
_____ a movie
on Netflix.

At 11:00 in the morning

At 11:00 in the morning, I
_____ an
online class.

In the afternoon

In the afternoon, I
_____ some
shopping at the mall.

At this time yesterday

At this time yesterday, I
_____ a book
in my living room

was watching

was reading

was attending

was cooking

was doing

3 Complete the conversation with the correct word or phrase.

Matt: How did you get your first job, Sonia?

Sonia: Well, I got a summer job in a department store
(got / was getting)
while I studied at the university.
(studied / was studying)

Matt: No, I mean your first full-time job.

Sonia: But that is how I got my first full-time job. I worked during the
(worked / was working)
summer when the manager offered me a job after graduation.
(offered / was offering)

Matt: Wow! That was lucky. Did you like the job?

Sonia: Well, I did at first, but then things changed. I did the same
(did / was doing)
thing every day, and they didn't give me any new responsibilities.
(didn't give / weren't giving)
I got really bored when another company
(got / was getting)
asked me to work for them.
(asked / was asking)

4 Look at the pictures and complete these sentences.



1. My roommate was studying when
she fell asleep!



2. I saw an old friend last week while



3. My car was giving me a lot of trouble, so



4. Coffee arrived while

5 One foot in one country, one foot in another

A Scan the article. Why is Lila Downs famous?

Lila Downs

Lila Downs is a Grammy-award winning singer and songwriter who is famous not only in Mexico and the United States, but throughout the world.

Lila was born in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico in 1968. Her mother belongs to the indigenous Mixtec people who speak both Mixtec and Spanish. Her father, who died when Lila was sixteen, was a professor of art and film from the United States. As a girl living in and traveling between Mexico and the U.S., Lila picked up the musical influences that give her music a very international flavor. She still travels a lot between Mexico and the U.S. because her husband is from Minnesota.

Lila is trilingual. She sings in Mixtec, Spanish, and English. She can sing in other languages, too. She learned to sing as a child by listening to her mother, who was a professional singer of Mexican popular music. Lila's first big success came in 1999 with her album *La Sandunga*, which is the name of a traditional dance in Oaxaca. In 2005 she went on to win the Latin Grammy award for *Una Sangre (One Blood)*.



Lila became known to many people through her singing performance in *Frida*, the 2002 film about the famous Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. She has acted in and contributed music to a number of films, while also writing the music and lyrics with her husband to the musical version of *Como agua para chocolate (Like Water for Chocolate)*, based on the very popular book by Mexican novelist Laura Esquivel.

Although she studied classical voice at college in the United States, Lila has devoted a great part of her career to singing the music of Mexico in Spanish, Mixtec, and Zapotec, which is another indigenous language in the state of Mexico. Many of her songs are concerned with social justice.

B Read the article and check (✓) True or False. For statements that are false, choose the correct information.

	True	False
1. Lila Downs' father was a professor of literature in the United States. _____	☐	☐
2. Her husband is from the United States. _____	☐	☐
3. She wrote the book <i>Como agua para chocolate</i> . _____	☐	☐
4. She studied classical voice in college in Mexico. _____	☐	☐
5. She speaks Spanish, Mixtec, and English. _____	☐	☐

6 How long has it been?

A Write sentences. Use the present perfect continuous and *for* or *since*.

Grammar note: *for* and *since*

Use *for* to describe a period of time.

Linda has been living in Seattle for three months.

I haven't been jogging for very long.

Use *since* to describe a point of time in the past.

Linda has been living in Seattle since she changed jobs.

I haven't been jogging since I hurt my foot.



1. Annie / work / actor / three years

Annie has been working as an actor for three years.

2. Carrie and Alex / go / graduate school / August

3. Tom / study / Chinese / a year

4. Linda / not teach / she had a baby

5. Lori / not live / Los Angeles / very long

6. Luis and Silvina / travel / South America / six weeks

B Write sentences about yourself. Use the phrases and clauses in the box (or your own information) and *for* or *since*.

18 months	a few weeks
2006	I was in high school
ages	this morning

1. I haven't been swimming in ages.

2. I have been learning English 18 months.

3. I have lived in this city 2006.

4. I have been waiting a few weeks to get my certificate.

5. I have known my best friend I was in high school.

6. I have been busy this morning.

7 Look at the answers. Write the questions.

Mark: What have you been doing lately?

Andrew: I've been working a lot and trying to stay in shape.

Mark: _____

Andrew: No, I haven't been jogging. I've been playing tennis in the evenings with friends.

Mark: Really? _____

Andrew: No, I've been losing most of the games. But it's fun. How about you?

Mark: No, I haven't been getting any exercise. I've been working long hours every day.

Andrew: _____

Mark: Yes, I've even been working on weekends. I've been working Saturday mornings.

Andrew: Well, why don't we play a game of tennis on Saturday afternoon? It's great exercise!



8 Choose the correct responses.

1. **A:** When I was a kid, I lived on a farm.

B: _____

- Really? Tell me more.
- Oh, have you?
- So have I.

2. **A:** I haven't been ice-skating in ages.

B: _____

- Why were you?
- Wow! I have, too.
- Neither have I.

3. **A:** I was a teenager when I got my first job.

B: _____

- Really? Where do you work?
- Really? That's interesting.
- For five years.

4. **A:** I haven't seen you for a long time.

B: _____

- I didn't know that.
- Not since we graduated.
- Hmm, I have no idea.

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Complete the answers to the questions. Use the past continuous or the present perfect continuous of the verbs given.

1. A: Have you been working here for long?

B: No, I haven't been working (work) here for very long – only since January.

2. A: Were you living in Europe before you moved here?

B: No, I _____ (live) in South Korea.

3. A: How long have you been studying English?

B: I _____ (study) it for about a year.

4. A: What were you doing before you went back to school?

B: I _____ (sell) real estate.

5. A: What have you been doing since I last saw you?

B: I _____ (travel) around the country.

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Rewrite these sentences. Find another way to say each sentence using the words given.



1. Terri was about 15 when she started saving up for a world trip. (teenager)

Terri started saving up for a world trip
while she was a teenager.

2. I was getting dressed when my friend arrived. (while)

3. I've been a fan of that TV show since I was a kid. (a long time)

4. I've had a part-time job for a year. (last year)

5. I've been spending too much money lately. (not save enough)

6. I haven't seen you for a long time. (ages)
