

Past Tense Contrast

Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect?

1 Choose the correct answers.

- 1 My parents **bought** / **were buying** a house just after they got married.
- 2 John **had got engaged** / **was getting engaged** before he left university.
- 3 Liam inherited a lot of money and **was emigrating** / **emigrated** to Australia.
- 4 Did Pam **phone** / **Had Pam phoned** while you **watched** / **were watching** television?
- 5 I opened the door and **stepped** / **had stepped** outside. It **rained** / **was raining**.
- 6 I didn't know where you were because you **weren't phoning** / **didn't phone**.
- 7 I **had** / **'d had** this watch for two years when the battery ran out.

2 Choose the best ending (a or b) for the sentences.

- 1 We couldn't open the front door because
a it had snowed all night. b it snowed all night.
- 2 It was a lovely spring day and the birds
a sang. b were singing.
- 3 I looked out of the window and noticed that
a it had stopped raining. b it was stopping raining.
- 4 The plants died because we
a were forgetting to water them.
b forgot to water them.
- 5 Before I left the house, I
a locked all the windows. b was locking all the windows.
- 6 I wasn't particularly hungry because
a I'd already had lunch. b I already had lunch.

3 Complete the text with the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple, past continuous or past perfect.

When Sarah Knauss ¹ _____ (die) on 30 December 1999, she ² _____ (live) in Pennsylvania, USA, where she ³ _____ (spend) all her life. At the time of her death, only one person before her ⁴ _____ (live) longer. Sarah ⁵ _____ (have) one daughter, who ⁶ _____ still _____ (live) when Sarah died.

