VIDEO 7 8

# 2.2 GRAMMAR

Past Continuous and Past Simple

*I can use the Past Simple and Past Continuous to describe past events.*

**1 SPEAKING Read what people say about e-books and printed books. Which comments do you agree with? Think of more advantages and disadvantages. Discuss with a partner.**

1. When I go on holiday, I don't have to pack heavy books.
2. I like the feel of a real book in my hands.
3. I work with computer screens all day – I don't want to read books on a screen too.
4. Books are so expensive. E-books are cheaper.

**2 Read about E ink. Who was Joe Jacobson and why did he have a 'Eureka' moment?**



In 1997 Joe Jacobson was working as a researcher for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). One summer, he went on holiday to the coast. He was lying on a beach when he finished his book. Unfortunately, he didn't have another one with him. At that moment, he imagined an electronic book that he could download any time he wanted and read in direct sunlight. It was a 'Eureka' moment. His vision became E ink technology and helped develop the e-readers that we have today.

**3 Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS. Complete the examples using the past forms in blue in Exercise 2.**

## GRAMMAR FOCUS 7

### Past Continuous and Past Simple

- You use the **Past Continuous** to talk about longer actions in progress at a time in the past.
  *In 1997 Joe Jacobson* [1] _____ *as a researcher for MIT.*
- You often use the **Past Continuous** with the **Past Simple** – usually when a short action (Past Simple) interrupted a longer action (Past Continuous).
  *He* [2] _____ *on a beach when he* [3] _____ *his book.*

**Past Continuous: *was/were* + *-ing* form**

| | |
|---|---|
| + | *I was working* etc. |
| – | *She wasn't working* etc. |
| ? | *Were you working?* etc. |

**4 Complete the beginnings of two stories with the Past Simple or the Past Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.**



It was a terrible stormy night six months after my father's death. My mother [1] *was sitting* (sit) alone by the fire, waiting for her baby to arrive. She [2] _____ (feel) sad and ill. Suddenly she [3] _____ (hear) a noise outside. 'There's someone at the door, Peggotty,' my mother [4] _____ (call). 'Who is it?' Peggotty was her servant and her only real friend. 'I'll go and see,' Peggotty [5] _____ (reply). She [6] _____ (go) and [7] _____ (open) the door.

As the carriage moved quickly along the rough dry road, Jonathan Harker [8] _____ (look out) at the changing view. Behind him was a land of small, green hills and colourful fields of fruit trees. Now he [9] _____ (drive) into the Transylvanian mountains through a thick forest. It [10] _____ (get) dark, and the other people in the carriage [11] _____ (be) quiet and afraid. A woman opposite him [12] _____ (reach) towards him and [13] _____ (put) something in his hand. It [14] _____ (be) a small, silver cross. 'Wear it around your neck,' she said. 'You'll be safe.'



**5 SPEAKING Which story would you like to continue reading and why? Tell your partner.**

**6 Complete each sentence with one Past Simple and one Past Continuous verb form. Which sentences are true for you?**

1. My parents *were studying* (study) when they *met* (meet).
2. My computer _____ (crash) when I _____ (do) my homework last night.
3. I _____ (watch) a film when my mum _____ (get) home yesterday.
4. It _____ (rain) when I _____ (wake up) this morning.
5. I _____ (burn) myself when I _____ (make) breakfast.
6. A friend _____ (text) me when I _____ (walk) to school.

**7 Write questions for the sentences in Exercise 6. Change pronouns where necessary. Then ask your partner as in the example.**

A: *Were your parents studying when they met?*
B: *No, they weren't.*

## FOCUS VLOG 8 About technology

8 **Watch the Focus Vlog. For the worksheet, go to page 119.**

Grammar page 135



LIVEWORKSHEETS