

ASSIGNMENT 4 – PAST SIMPLE and PAST CONTINUOUS

Practice 1 – Complete the magazine article with the past simple of the verbs in brackets.

Two Young Adventurers Solo Round-the-World Sailors

Michael Perham and Jessica Watson are the World's two youngest round-the-world sailors.

Michael was (be) born in the UK in 1992.

When he was 17 he 1 (sail) around the world alone. At the time he 2 (be) the youngest person to do this.



Michael 3 (start) his journey in November 2008 and 4 (finish) it in August 2009. He originally 5 (want) to do the journey in four months without any help.

In the end, this 6 (not / be) possible because of problems with his boat.

There 7 (be) also problems with the weather. He 8 (not / sail) around

Cape Horn because there

9 (be) bad storms in the Southern Ocean. Instead he 10 (sail) through the Panama Canal.



Jessica 11 (be) born in Australia in 1993. When she was a child she had sailing lessons. For five years she and her family 12 (not / live) in a house or flat: they 13 (live) on a boat at sea.

In 2010 she 14 (complete) her first solo round-the-world sailing trip – at the age of just 16. She 15 (not / receive) any help on her trip.



Practice 2: Complete the text.

AMAZING WORLD RECORDS

SPORT: In 1999, a man from the USA ► rode (ride) backwards on a unicycle for 109 km.

FILM: In 2006, an Indian boy 1 (direct) a full-length film. He 2 (be) just nine years old.

SPORT: In 2010, a Danish man 3 (swim) under ice for 72m. He 4 (not use) any special equipment.

TRAVEL: In June 2005, a 71-year-old man from Japan 5 (become) the oldest person to sail around the world non-stop. His trip 6 (take) 233 days.

Practice 3: Circle the correct option.

► When I looked / was looking out of the window it snowed / was snowing

- 1 We worked / were working in the garden when we found / were finding some old money.
- 2 When I made / was making the cake I dropped / was dropping the bowl.
- 3 I cleaned / was cleaning the kitchen when she arrived / was arriving.
- 4 When I started / was starting school we lived / were living in the old house.
- 5 I saw / was seeing you when I waited / was waiting for the bus.



Practice 4: Complete the conversation with the past simple tense of the verbs in brackets.

Ben Did you have (you/have) a good weekend?
Jack No. Not really.
Ben Why not?
Jack Well, 1 (Robert and I / decide) to go cycling. But 2 (we/get) lost.
Ben How 3 (that/happen)?
Jack Well, 4 (we/not/have) a map. 5 (Robert/forget) to bring it. And then it started to rain.
Ben 6 (you/get) really wet?
Jack Yes, especially Robert. 7 (he/not/have) a coat. But that wasn't the worst thing. The chain on my bicycle 8 (break).
Ben Oh no.
Jack 9 (we/not/know) what to do. My 10 (phone/not/work) because we couldn't get a signal. We looked for a car, but 11 (there/not/be) any cars on the road.
Ben So what 12 (you/do)?
Jack 13 (we/walk) for an hour. In the end, 14 (we/come) to a village and phoned my dad. 15 (he/drive) to meet us in the car. 16 (he/not/be) happy!

Practice 5: Circle the correct option.

► It snowed / was snowing when I looked / was looking out of the window.

- 1 He found / was finding the money when he looked / was looking for his keys.
- 2 I met / was meeting Ryan while I helped / was helping his brother.
- 3 While we cleaned / were cleaning the car I had / was having a good idea.
- 4 Tanya dropped / was dropping the plate when she dried / was drying it.
- 5 I thought / was thinking about it a lot while I walked / was walking to school.
- 6 When I read / was reading the newspaper I saw / was seeing this advertisement.

Practice 6: Circle the correct option.

► What did you do / were you doing at half past seven?
1 It rained / was raining when I left home.
2 Jill got up and had / was having breakfast.
3 My racket broke / was breaking when I was playing tennis.
4 Where were you going / did you go when I saw your car yesterday?
5 They wanted / were wanting to go out last night.
6 They did / were doing their homework and then they went shopping.
7 Did she like / Was she liking your new shoes?
8 'Where were you yesterday afternoon?' 'I visited / was visiting my grandparents.'
9 The film finished / was finishing at four o'clock.
10 Mary didn't know / wasn't knowing the answer when the teacher asked her the question.

Practice 7: Complete the story with the words from the box.

couldn't do didn't don't
doesn't isn't 're 've was were

I 've got a cousin called Sam.



We often do sports together. We meet at the weekend because he 1 go to the same school as me.

At the moment we 2 playing a lot of tennis because it's summer.

I always wear a blue cap for tennis. Sam wears a red cap. Yesterday I looked everywhere for my blue cap, but I 3 find it.

When I arrived at the park, Sam 4 wearing his red cap – and my blue cap! 'You left it here last week,' he explained. 'So I put it with mine. I 5 want to forget it.'

Practice 8: Circle the correct option. Complete the sentences with the past continuous tense of the verbs.

► Leo was playing (play) the guitar.
1 I 1 (think) about you yesterday.
2 We 2 (sit) at the back of the cinema.
3 You 3 (not/wear) any shoes!
4 Tony 4 (walk) and I 5 (run).
5 I 5 (not/expect) that!
6 6 (they/watch) us?
7 What 7 (happen) at ten o'clock?
8 When I arrived, Molly 8 (leave).



Practice 9: Complete the text with the correct verb tenses.

This happened (happen) last week when I was in the park. The sun ¹ _____ (shine) and I ² _____ (sit) on the grass. I ³ _____ (paint) a picture of the ducks on the pond.

Some children ⁴ _____ (play) football. Suddenly, their ball ⁵ _____ (hit) my paint pots and the paint pots ⁶ _____ (fall) over. The blue paint went on my picture and the pink paint ⁷ _____ (go) on the grass.

My hands got dirty when I ⁸ _____ (clean) my picture so I decided to go and wash them in the pond. The ducks ⁹ _____ (fly) away when I ¹⁰ _____ (wash) my hands because they were scared of me.

They ¹¹ _____ (land) on the grass by my picture. They walked on the pink paint, then they ¹² _____ (walk) on my picture. They ¹³ _____ (make) pink marks all over the paper.

And that wasn't all. When the ducks ¹⁴ _____ (walk) on my picture it ¹⁵ _____ (start) to rain. By now my picture looked terrible.

I ¹⁶ _____ (think) about what to do with the picture when a girl ¹⁷ _____ (speak) to me.

'I love your picture,' she ¹⁸ _____ (say). So what did I do? I gave it to her!

Practice 10: Complete the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

A few months ago, George and his friends were cycling (cycle) in the hills when they heard a strange noise. George's friends ¹ _____ (not stop) cycling, but George stopped and got off his bike.

He looked around but he couldn't ² _____ (see) anything. The noise stopped. Then George looked down and ³ _____ (see) something white at his feet. It ⁴ _____ (be) an envelope. He picked it up and opened it. He couldn't believe his eyes. There was £10,000 inside! George took the money to the police. Will someone ask for it? George is still ⁵ _____ (wait) to hear.

Practice 11: Complete the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- His phone rang while he was doing the exam. (ring/do)
- 1 May _____ sweets when her tooth _____. (eat/break)
- 2 While I _____ the door, I _____ white paint on my trousers. (paint/get)
- 3 What _____ they _____ about when we _____ into the room? (talk/come)
- 4 While we _____ at the bus stop, we _____ an accident. (wait/see)
- 5 What _____ you _____ while you _____ with your mum? (buy/shop)
- 6 She _____ to the shops when someone _____ her handbag. (walk/steal)
- 7 While I _____ on the beach, my brother _____ for a swim. (lie/go)
- 8 Sam _____ on the bus when a bird _____ in through the window. (sit/fly)
- 9 _____ you _____ your phone while you _____ for the bus? (drop/run)
- 10 I _____ to music when my dad _____ me to switch it off. (listen/tell)



Practice 12: Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.



We were sitting (sit) in the back of a big jeep. No one ¹ _____ (talk). All of us ² _____ (look) intently through the windows of the car. Outside the African sun ³ _____ (shine), hot and bright, but nothing ⁴ _____ (move). Then suddenly, we ⁵ _____ (see) it – an elephant. It ⁶ _____ (appear) from a small group of trees and ⁷ _____ (start) to walk slowly towards the jeep. While it ⁸ _____ (come) towards us, I ⁹ _____ (get) my camera and ¹⁰ _____ (take) some photos. The elephant ¹¹ _____ (continue) in our direction. It was huge, much bigger than you ¹² _____ (can) imagine. Someone asked the guide, 'Is this dangerous? Will the elephant stop?' The guide ¹³ _____ (not say) anything. He switched off the car engine and ¹⁴ _____ (give) a signal to be silent. Now some of us were getting nervous. My hands ¹⁵ _____ (shake) and my heart ¹⁶ _____ (beat) very fast. The elephant ¹⁷ _____ (stop). It looked at the jeep for a long time. Then it simply ¹⁸ _____ (turn) around and ¹⁹ _____ (walk) back into the trees. Everyone breathed again. It was amazing!

Practice 13: Circle the correct option to complete the first part of the article. Then complete the second part of the article with the correct verb tenses.

Life-saving teenager

15-year-old Henry Pulman **comes** / **is coming** / **was coming** from a small seaside village. He **'loves** / **is loving** / **loved** the water and he regularly **swims** / **was swimming** / **swum** in the sea with his friends.

One day, Henry and his friends **played** / **play** / **were playing** on the beach when they **heard** / **are hearing** / **were hearing** shouts from someone. 'I **see** / **saw** / **was seeing** a boy in the sea and he **calls** / **was calling** / **called** for help,' said Henry. 'He sounded very scared.'

Henry **wore** / **was wearing** / **is wearing** swimming shorts. He **'s going** / **was going** / **went** straight into the water while his friends **called** / **were calling** / **call** the emergency services.

The boy in the water was 12-year-old Jamie Jones. 'At first I ▶ **was enjoying** (enjoy) the rough sea,' Jamie ¹ _____ (say) later. 'Then the water ² _____ (start) to pull me and I got frightened, so I ³ _____ (shout) for help.'

'Suddenly I ⁴ _____ (see) Henry in the water near me. I was very happy to see him. 'The sea here is very rough and dangerous,' he explained to me. 'I can't help you swim back to the beach, but a man ⁵ _____ (come) here in a boat. He'll take us to the beach.' While we ⁶ _____ (wait) for the boat Henry ⁷ _____ (chat) to me and ⁸ _____ (keep) me calm.' I ⁹ _____ (believe) he saved my life.'

The experience has had a big effect on Henry. 'A few weeks ago, I ¹⁰ _____ (not/ know) what job I'd like to do. Now, I ¹¹ _____ (want) to train as a life-guard. I ¹² _____ (meet) a life-guard at the local swimming pool next week and she's going to talk to me about the job.'

---THE END---

