

SIMPLE PAST, PAST CONTINUOUS, PAST PERFECT AND PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The most embarrassing moment of my life (Richard, Sussex)

Part 1

When I was about nine years old I used to go to the cinema every Saturday morning – in those days it was very popular. After the film had finished, I would go to a toy shop and look at model planes and trains, and sometimes I bought them with the pocket money that I had been carefully saving. One day after the film, I went to a big department store to have a look at the model planes they had. I didn't buy anything, but as I was leaving a very large man grabbed my arm quite violently and accused me of shoplifting.

The man said that he was a store detective. As I had been concentrating on the toys, I hadn't noticed that he had been watching me. He made me empty my pockets and he went through my coat, searching for stolen goods, even though I told him very clearly that I had only been looking. Of course he didn't find anything, but by this time several people had stopped to see what was happening. I felt very embarrassed and humiliated that so many people were looking at me, and I was very glad to leave the shop when it was all over.



b Complete the second part of the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets: past simple, past continuous, past perfect, or past perfect continuous.

Part 2

An hour or so later, when I ¹was having (**have**) lunch with my family at home, my father ²_____ (**ask**) me about the film. I then ³_____ (**mention**) that I ⁴_____ (**look**) at toys in a department store when a store detective ⁵_____ (**accuse**) me of shoplifting and ⁶_____ (**search**) me in the middle of the shop. My father ⁷_____ (**make**) me repeat what I ⁸_____ (**say**), and then immediately ⁹_____ (**jump up**) from the table. Without either of us having finished our lunch, he ¹⁰_____ (**make**) me get into the car. I ¹¹_____ (**never see**) my father so angry! He ¹²_____ (**drive**) quickly to the store, ¹³_____ (**park**) outside, and took me to where the incident ¹⁴_____ (**take place**). He then demanded to see the manager and the



store detective. When the manager ¹⁵_____ (**come**), my father ¹⁶_____ (**start**) shouting at him and he told him that I ¹⁷_____ (**never steal**) anything in my life. He ¹⁸_____ (**make**) the manager and store detective apologize to me for having accused me of shoplifting and for embarrassing me. But the thing is, I ¹⁹_____ (**find**) this scene even more embarrassing than the first one, especially as I could **see** that a lot of customers ²⁰_____ (**stop**) and ²¹_____ (**watch**) us!