

PAST CONTINUOUS

We use the past continuous;

- to talk about something happening over a period of time in the past:

*We **were watching** a film at eight o'clock last night.*

- to talk about two things happening at the same time in the past:

*They **were watching** the film while I **was doing** my homework.*

Practice

1 Write sentences using the past continuous.

1 Jim / sleep / while / Sam / clean / the kitchen.
Jim was sleeping while Sam was cleaning the kitchen.

2 What / you / do / last night / at ten o'clock?
.....

3 It / be / not / rain / this morning.
.....

4 I / have / a French lesson / while / they / have / an exam.
.....

5 Sophie / be / not / travel / on the bus / at 8 a.m.
.....

6 While / Jack / read / Emily / play / the guitar.
.....

PAST SIMPLE VS PAST CONTINUOUS

Past simple & past continuous

We use the past continuous with the past simple to talk about one thing happening in the middle of another:

*When I **left** home, my brother **was eating** his breakfast.*

*While I **was walking** into town, it **started** to rain.*

We use *when* with the past simple to talk about a point of time:

*My parents **were watching** TV **when** I **got** home.*

We use *while* with the past continuous to talk about the continuous actions:

*I **was doing** my homework **while** my parents **were watching** TV.*

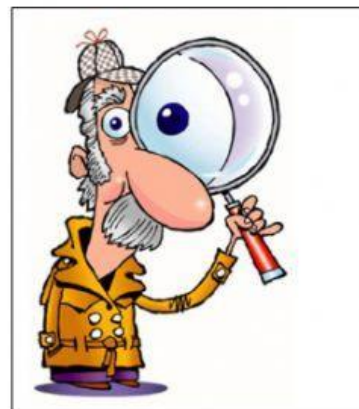
Choose the correct verbs to complete the sentences.

- 1 I *slept* / *was sleeping* when you *phoned* / *were phoning* this morning.
- 2 At three o'clock this afternoon I *did* / *was doing* a maths test at school.
- 3 When I *woke up* / *was waking up* this morning, it *rained* / *was raining*.
- 4 What *are you doing* / *were you doing* at ten o'clock last night?

Complete the story with past forms of the verbs in the box. You need seven past continuous and two past simple verbs.

be come **drive** listen watch
see stand tell travel

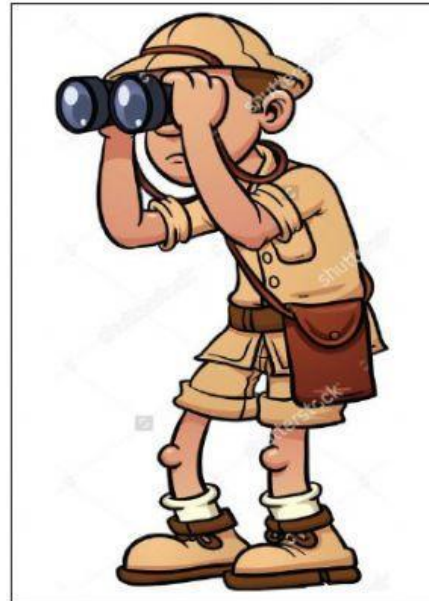
It was a sunny morning and my parents, my sister and I (1) were driving along a busy motorway. We (2) to Scotland to spend the weekend with some friends. My sister and I (3) a film and Mum and Dad (4) to music. Suddenly, we (5) bright blue lights on the road in front of us. A policeman in a yellow jacket (6) in the middle of the road. He (7) everyone to drive more slowly. There were two fire engines at the side of the road near to a car. Smoke (8) out of its engine. Luckily, no one (9) hurt.



- 3** Complete the sentences with these verbs from the quiz.

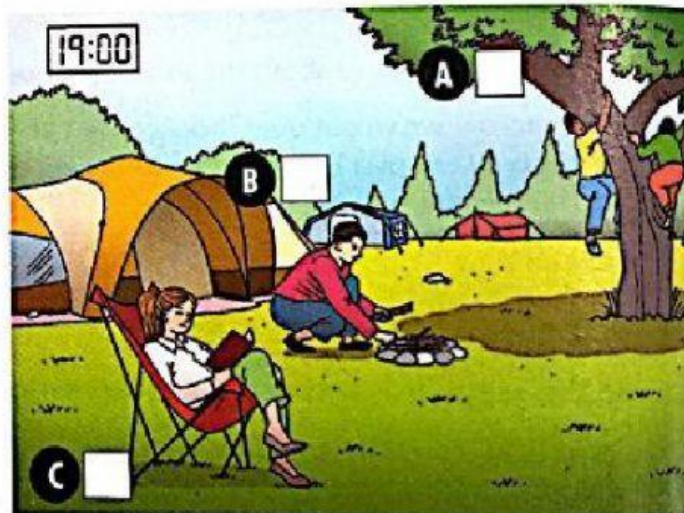
explore have learn speak
stay try visit

- 1 I would love to explore the lakes in North America.
- 2 When we go to a new country, we often have to English.
- 3 My mum and dad often go to restaurants to new dishes.
- 4 On the first day of the school holidays, I usually a rest.
- 5 My uncle wanted to go to Berlin but he didn't speak German so he decided to a new language.
- 6 When my cousin gets married, he wants to in a five-star hotel in Thailand.
- 7 My parents love museums so we often capital cities when we go on holiday.



- 4** Read the text and match people 1–3 with the people in the picture.

Yesterday at 7.00 p.m. we were at the campsite. We were lucky, it wasn't raining. (1) Dad was building a fire, (2) my sister was reading a book and (3) Kevin and I were climbing a tree.



Choose the correct words to complete the email.

● ● ●

From: Sandra

We had a fantastic day at the hotel yesterday. At 11 o'clock, the sun (1) *was / were* shining and it (2) *wasn't / weren't* raining. My mum and dad (3) *was / were* reading their books, my little brother (4) *was / were* playing with his new friend and my cousin and I (5) *was / were* learning how to sail. What (6) *were / was* you doing at 11 o'clock yesterday?

2 Complete the table with the adjectives from the box.

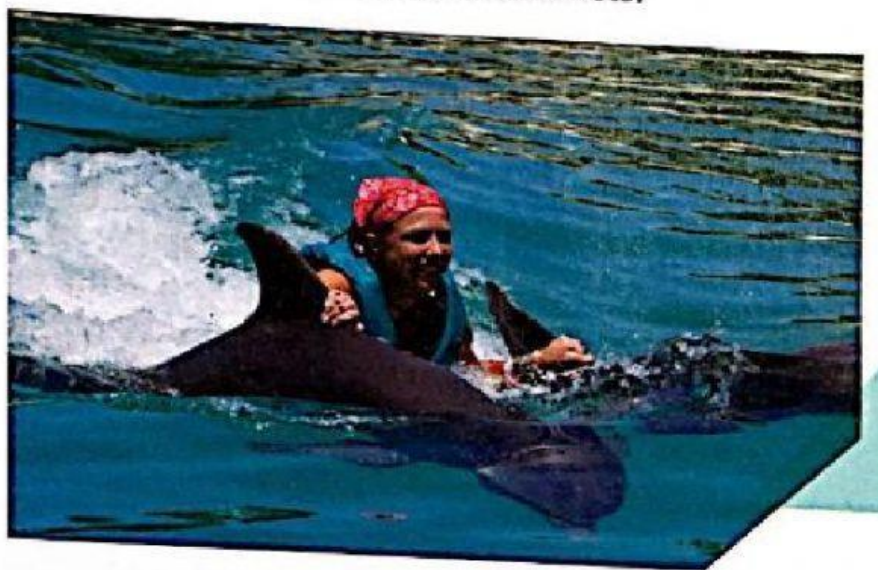
amazing boring brilliant excellent exciting
 funny interesting terrible tiring wonderful

good 😊	bad ☹️

Exam candidates often make mistakes with adjectives of opinion. Correct one mistake in each of these sentences.

- 1 I'm interesting in London. I'm going to stay there for five days...interested..
- 2 I'd like to see that movie with you. It would be funny.
.....
- 3 I saw the new film but it was very bored.
.....
- 4 I'm really exciting about the concert.....
- 5 I was shopping for clothes yesterday. I bought a wonderfull white coat.....
- 6 It isn't a big bedroom but it's confortable and nice.
.....

Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verb in brackets.



- 1 My mum (swim) in the sea with dolphins while she was in Florida.
- 2 We were fishing on the lake when it (start) to rain so we went home.
- 3 My dad found some money while he (pack) his suitcase.
- 4 My brother (study) in Ireland when he met his girlfriend.
- 5 My grandma (try) pizza for the first time while she was staying in Italy.
- 6 My friends saw some strange parrots while they (visit) the bird park.

Complete the questions with the past simple or past continuous form of the verb in brackets. Then write an answer that is true for you.

- 1 Was it raining when you (wake up) this morning?
- 2 What were you doing when the teacher (come) in?
- 3 What did you watch on TV while you (have) dinner yesterday?
- 4 Was your mum reading a book when you (get) home?

Write your answers here