

### Past continuous: to set the atmosphere

- In English, we often use the past continuous tense to describe the atmosphere (set the scene) at a particular time in the past. The events that were taking place at that time.

Example:

- When I walked into the office, several people **were** busily **typing**, some **were** **talking** on the phones, the boss **was** **yelling** directions, and customers **were** **waiting** to be helped. One customer **was** **yelling** at a secretary and **waving** his hands. Others **were** **complaining** to each other about the bad service.
- We often use the past simple and past continuous together when one action interrupts another

The receptionist **was talking** on the phone when the fire alarm **went off**.



### 1. Read the text and complete with the verbs in the past simple or continuous form.

#### The best cinema

It was almost the end of the holidays and my friends and I \_\_\_\_\_ (look for) something interesting to do. We \_\_\_\_\_ (get) bored of the park, shopping centres and our play stations when my brother mentioned the new 4D cinema. To be honest, we \_\_\_\_\_ (not- be) very excited but we \_\_\_\_\_ (decide to) go. While we \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) the tickets, we \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) some people talking about how they enjoyed the movie. We \_\_\_\_\_ (not-understand) what they \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) about. At first it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) like a normal cinema. We \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) the movie when suddenly our seats \_\_\_\_\_ (start) moving. We \_\_\_\_\_ (be) really surprised. When the actors \_\_\_\_\_ (swim), we \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) water on our faces. When there \_\_\_\_\_ (be) an explosion, they \_\_\_\_\_ (send) hot wind along the room. We \_\_\_\_\_ (not-want) the film to finish. The tickets \_\_\_\_\_ (be) expensive but the whole experience was worth it!

