6 Read the information.

Past continuous

We use the past continuous to talk about

- an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past.

I was doing my homework at 6.30 p.m.
They were driving to work at that time.

- two actions that were in progress at the same time in the past. We use *while* to link the two sentences.

I was reading a magazine while the boys were playing in the garden.
While he was talking on the phone, she was drying her hair.

Past simple and past continuous

- We use the past simple and past continuous to talk about an action that happened (past simple) while another action was in progress (past continuous).

We were having lunch when we heard a loud bang.

- To link the sentences, we use *when* before the past simple and *while* or *as* before the past continuous.

It was raining when we came out of the cinema.
When the teacher came in, we were sitting down.
As she was looking through her papers, she found my diary.

7 Complete with the past continuous.

What was everyone doing at 8.00 p.m. yesterday evening?

1 Peter was studying for a test. (study)
2 Lucy ..... an email to her pen friend. (write)
3 Mr and Mrs Hardy ..... TV. (watch)
4 Harry ..... a shower. (have)
5 Beth and her cousin ..... a computer game. (play)
6 I ..... to my friend on the phone. (talk)
7 You ..... to London. (fly)
8 Mrs Jones ..... her pupil's homework. (mark)

Look!

When you begin with *'while'*, remember to add a comma at the end of the clause.

8 Join the sentences with *while*.

1 (while) we / play / football they / have / a lesson *While we were playing football, they were having a lesson.*
2 he / listen/ to music (while) he / run .....
3 (while) they / paint / the chairs Tom / plant / the new trees .....
4 Mary / make / the tea (while) Ken / make / the sandwiches .....
5 (while) Dad / fish we / swimming / in the sea .....
6 I / do / the crossword (while) you / play / computer games .....

9 Circle the correct answer.

1 As I was taking / took the shoes to the till, I was realising / realised I did not have any money with me.
2 The doorbell was ringing / rang while they were watching / watched TV.
3 While we were talking / talked, the baby was waking up / woke up.
4 David was cycling / cycled home when it was starting / started to rain.
5 I was hurting / hurt my back as I was lifting / lifted a heavy box.
6 Elizabeth was driving / drove to work when the accident was happening / happened.
7 While they weren't looking / didn't look, someone was stealing / stole their luggage.
8 The train was leaving / left while you were buying / bought the magazines.

LIVEWORKSHEETS