

## 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 was writing an email to her pen friend. (write)
- 3 Mr and Mrs Hardy were watching TV. (watch)
- 4 Harry was having a shower. (have)
- 5 Beth and her cousin were playing a computer game. (play)
- 6 I was talking to my friend on the phone. (talk)
- 7 You were flying to London. (fly)
- 8 Mrs Jones was marking 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.