

Grammar

Past Simple

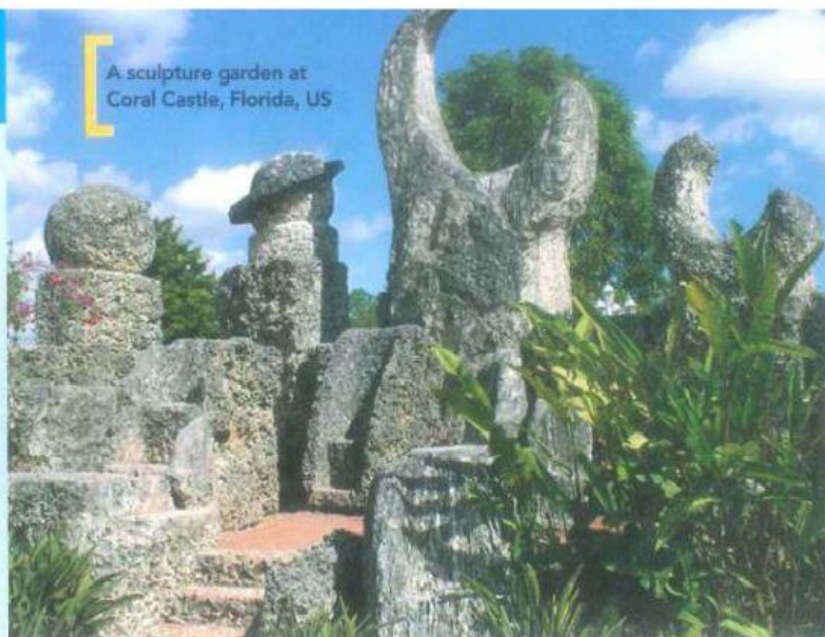
A Read the Past Simple sentences and underline the verbs.

- 1 We watched a documentary on the Pyramids and wrote a report about it.
- 2 James woke up at four o'clock every morning.
- 3 Agatha Christie wrote over 80 detective stories in her lifetime.

B Match the uses of the Past Simple with the sentences in A.

We can use the Past Simple for

- a an action or situation which started and finished in the past. ☐
- b actions which happened one after the other in the past. ☐
- c past routines and habits. ☐



A sculpture garden at Coral Castle, Florida, US

E Complete the text with the correct form of the Past Simple or the Past Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

C Read the sentences and underline the verbs in the Past Continuous.

- 1 While the policeman was collecting the evidence, a reporter arrived to ask some questions.
- 2 I was reading about the crop circles while my brother was watching a DVD.
- 3 The detective was investigating the crime scene at ten o'clock this morning.

D Answer the questions.

Which sentence in C shows

- a an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past? ☐
- two or more actions that were in progress at the same time in the past? ☐
- c an action that was in progress in the past that was interrupted by another action? ☐

Be careful

Remember that we don't use stative verbs with continuous tenses.

Grammar Focus p.163 (2.1 & 2.2)

Coral Castle

The amazing Coral Castle in Florida was the creation of a very clever man named Edward Leedskalnin. Leedskalnin

(1) _____ (immigrate) to America in the early twentieth century and (2) _____ (spend) most of his life building Coral Castle. To build the castle, he (3) _____ (move) huge stone blocks all by himself. How he did this is a mystery because he (4) _____ (not allow) anyone to watch while he (5) _____ (work).

One of Leedskalnin's most spectacular creations was a nine-ton revolving door. The door was so well-balanced that it (6) _____ (open) with the push of a finger. Nobody could understand how this worked until the door (7) _____ (break) in 1986. While engineers (8) _____ (repair) it, they found that Leedskalnin had put a part of a truck called a bearing in the centre. The engineers (9) _____ (replace) the bearing, but the door no longer opens as easily as it did originally.

In December 1951, Leedskalnin (10) _____ (realise) that he (11) _____ (suffer) from an illness and he put a notice on the gate of Coral Castle which said 'Going to the hospital'. Unfortunately, he (12) _____ (die) there three days later, but his memory lives on in his creation, which tourists can still visit.