Grammar in Use
Past Tenses

1. Mark the tenses with PS (past simple), PC (past continuous), PPS (past perfect simple), PPC (past perfect continuous). Then match them to the correct descriptions.

1	a	PS	Elizabeth II **became** the Queen of the United Kingdom in 1953.
2			She **was steering** the boat while he **was playing** the guitar.
3			They **had been skating** together for five years before they entered the competition.
4			He **was driving** home when his car broke down.
5			They **had** already **sat** down for dinner by 7 o'clock.
6			Frank Sinatra, one of the best-selling music artists of all time, **won** eleven Grammy Awards.
7			First, he **read** the message. Then, he **called** his boss.
8			At 3 o'clock yesterday they **were sitting** at an outdoor café.
9			She **had been working** hard that day, so she was tired.

a event which happened at a stated past time
b past action in progress interrupted by another past action
c action which happened at a definite past time
d past actions which happened one after the other
e two simultaneous past actions
f emphasis on the duration of an action which started and finished in the past before another past action
g past action which occurred before a sated time in the past
h past action of certain duration which had visible results in the past
i action in progress at a stated time in the past

2. Choose the correct form of the verb.

- I to work when I heard the news on the radio.
- We around town when we bumped into Mary.
- They were hiking up the hill when the volcano .
- What at 6 o'clock? I couldn't get in touch with you.
- Jake had only been talking for a minute the microphone went dead.
- Harry asleep while he was watching TV.

3. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present tense.

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- We (drive) along when this man (jump) out in front of the car.
- Tom (have) a coffee while he (read) a magazine.
- It (snow) for hours and no planes (be) able to take off.
- Ian (ask) Tina out yesterday but she (already/make) plans.
- Two days ago Mary (return) the book I (lend) her.

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