

What was going on ? What happened ?

Read the text below. Complete, answer or select the right answer.



Many years ago while I was living in India, I was invited to a reception at the embassy*. When I arrived some of the guests were sitting around the dinner table eating. Others were drinking or chatting. A few couples were dancing while a group of musicians were playing waltzes*. All of a sudden the hostess's face became pale. No one noticed but* me since* everyone was now listening to an old colonel talking about his army expériences. She called the maid* who left the room and came back holding a bowl of milk.



She placed it on the veranda. I understood immediately what was happening. The milk was for a cobra which was hiding somewhere in the room. The guests were still chatting and having fun, drinking their coffee or smoking their cigars when I saw the cobra crawl across the floor and onto the veranda. While the maid was closing the veranda door the cobra was already drinking the milk. I was trembling when I asked the hostess how she knew there



was a cobra in the room. « Because a few minutes ago, » she whispered, « it was crawling across my foot ». And we both joined the other guests who were still enjoying the meal and each other's company.

Help :

an embassy : une ambassade - a waltz : une valse – a maid : une employée de maison –
crawl : ramper – since : puisque – whisper : chuchoter – but me= except me -

Dans le texte les deux formes du prétérit utilisées sont le
et le

Retrouvez dans le texte le verbe qui décrit une action en cours qui
annonce le moment donné du passé. Notez-le ainsi que le moment.



Les événements venant s'insérer dans une action en cours ou la perturber, notez d'abord
l'action en cours (la première mentionnée si elle fait partie d'une série) puis l'événement.
(Ne pas noter le sujet)

Des actions simultanées (qui se déroulent en même temps) :

a.



b.

c.



d.

Des actions successives :

a.



b.

Answer the following questions using the the right form of the past. (*Faire des phrases*)

a. What were the guests doing while the musicians were playing ?

b. What were the guests doing when the cobra crawled across the floor ?



c. What was the maid doing when she came back from the kitchen ?



d. What did the maid do when she came back from the kitchen ?

e. What was the cobra doing while the maid was closing the door ?



f. What were the guest doing when the hostess joined them ?

