1) Choose the correct word or phrase in each sentence

a) When you passed the town hall clock, *did you notice/were you noticing* what time it was?
b) Last night my neighbours *were shouting/would shout* for hours and I couldn't get to sleep.
c) When you lived in London, *did you use to travel/were you travelling* by bus?
d) Everyone was having a good time, although not many people *danced/were dancing*.
e) Jill was really hungry because she *didn't eat/hadn't eaten* all day.
f) Before we went to the theatre, we *called in/had called in* at George's café for a pizza.
g) It took a while for me to notice, but then I did. Everyone *stared/was staring* at me. What had I done wrong?
h) Nobody bothered to tell me that the school *decided/had decided* to have a special holiday on Friday.
i) I *was trying/tried* to get in touch with you all day yesterday. Where were you?
j) A: Excuse me, but this seat is mine.
B: I'm sorry, I *didn't realise/hadn't realised* that you were sitting here.

2) Put each verb in brackets into a suitable past verb form

This time last year I (1) ..was cycling..... (cycle) in the rain along a country road in France with a friend of mine. We (2) ..... (decide) to go on a cycling holiday in Normandy. Neither of us (3) ..... (be) to France before, but we (4) ..... (know) some French from our time at school and we (5) ..... (manage) to brush up on the basics. Now we (6) ..... (wonder) if we (7) ..... (make) the right decision. We (8) ..... (plan) our route carefully in advance, but we (9) ..... (forget) one important thing, the weather. It (10) ..... (rain) solidly since our arrival and that night we (11) ..... (end up) sleeping in the waiting room at a railway station. Then the next morning as we (12) ..... (ride) down a steep hill my bike (13) ..... (skid) on the wet road and I (14) ..... (fall off). I (15) ..... (realise) immediately that I (16) ..... (break) my arm, and after a visit to the local hospital I (17) ..... (catch) the next train to Calais for the ferry home. Unfortunately my parents (18) ..... (not/expect) me home for a fortnight, and (19) ..... (go) away on holiday. So I (20) ..... (spend) a miserable couple of weeks alone, reading 'Teach Yourself French'.