Grammar in context

Past continuous

1a Look at sentences 1–4 and match them with the explanation of their uses in a–d.

1 Somebody was crying. ____

2 While I was watching the programme, I suddenly heard a loud noise. ____

3 I went towards the kitchen. ____

4 I studied in my room for an hour or two and then I had dinner. ____

a a completed action in the past.

b two completed actions in the past that happened one after the other.

c an activity in progress in the past.

d an activity in progress in the past interrupted by a sudden action.

1b Complete this rule.

We make the past continuous with the past simple of _____ + verb *-ing*

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5 **Complete the dialogue by putting the verbs in the correct form of the past continuous or past simple.**



POLICE OFFICER: So, can you tell us, sir? What **(a)** *were* you *doing* (do) at 10pm last night?

ROBIN BANKS: Let's see. I think I **(b)** _____ (help) my mum with the shopping at 10pm.

POLICE OFFICER: Really? When we **(c)** _____ (ring) your mum last night at 10pm she **(d)** _____ (not do) the shopping. She **(e)** _____ (watch) TV at home.

ROBIN BANKS: Ah, now I remember. I **(f)** _____ (run) at that time.

POLICE OFFICER: **(g)** _____ anybody **(h)** _____ (see) you while you **(i)** _____ (run)?

ROBIN BANKS: Erm. Yes, my friend Jack Door saw me.

POLICE OFFICER: Jack Door? Impossible. Didn't you know? He's in prison.

ROBIN BANKS: Oops! Anyway, why are you asking me all these questions?

POLICE OFFICER: Well, Mr Banks, our cameras **(j)** _____ (catch) you running last night. You **(k)** _____ (run) out of the National Bank and you **(l)** _____ (carry) a bag with ten thousand pounds in it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS