

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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LIVELIVEWORKSHEETS

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.