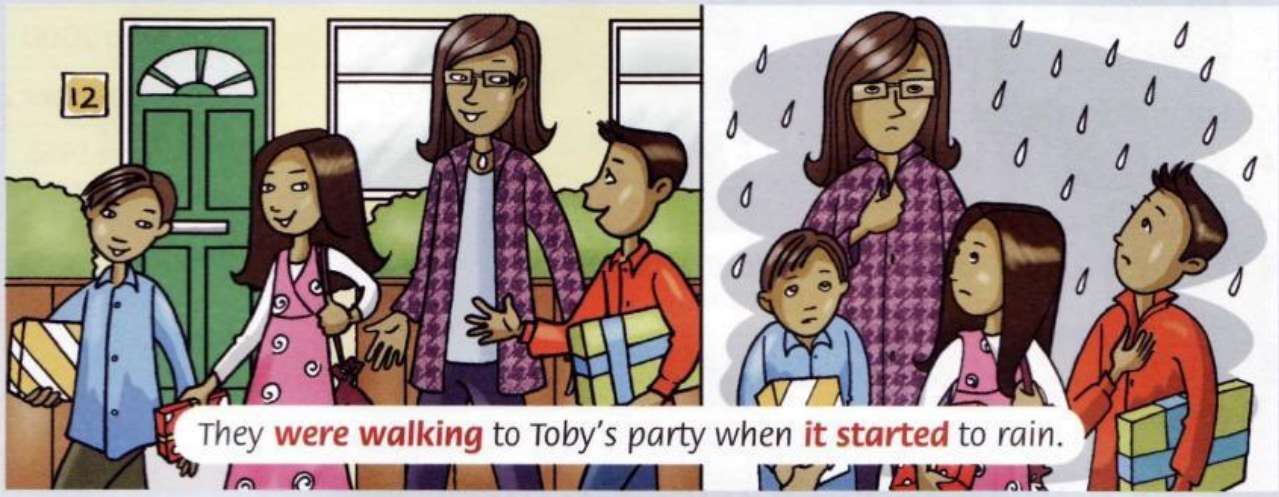
15 We were having fun!

The past simple and continuous
There, *they're* and *their*

The past simple and the past continuous



We use the past continuous with the past simple when we want to talk about something that happened in the middle of another, longer, action. Look at these sentences:

Past continuous	Past simple
*I **was walking** to the shops.*	*It **started** to rain.*

We can make these two actions into one sentence by connecting them with **when**.
*I **was walking** to the shops **when** it **started** to rain.*

We can use **when** in the middle or at the beginning of the sentence. If we put it at the beginning, we must put a comma (,) after the first part of the sentence.
*The phone rang **when** Mr Taylor was talking to his boss.*
***When** Mr Taylor was talking to his boss, the phone rang.*

1 Circle the shorter action that happened in the middle of another, longer one.

1 The children were playing outside when it started raining.
2 When I was making dinner, Mrs Cooper phoned.
3 When Tim was running for the ball, he fell over.
4 Tommy was telling a scary story when the lights went out.
5 Everyone was waiting when I walked into the room.
6 When I woke up, my brother was doing his homework.
7 George and William were buying CDs when they heard the alarm.
8 You were talking to the fisherman when the big boat arrived.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Look at the pictures. Complete the sentences. Use the past simple or past continuous of the verbs in brackets.



The mechanic was repairing (repair) the car when the phone rang (ring).



The Green family _____ (walk) to the beach when the storm _____ (start).



He _____ (read) a magazine when someone _____ (take) his bag.



Edward _____ (play) football when he _____ (hurt) his leg.



Alice _____ (do) her homework when the fireworks _____ (start).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Do we write commas in these sentences? Write , or –.

1 When I first saw you [,] you were standing over there.
2 I was wearing my best shoes [ ] when I fell over.
3 It was starting to snow [ ] when we left school.
4 When they were driving past their house [ ] they saw a man outside.
5 She was talking to a journalist [ ] when the crime happened.
6 You were laughing [ ] when you answered the phone.
7 When she was looking at the zebras [ ] a monkey jumped up at her.

4 Look at the table. Write sentences. Use when and the correct form of the verb.

First action	Second action
1 I / get / ready for school	something strange / happen
2 Dad / eat / breakfast	his boss / ring
3 Dad / look / worried	he / put / the phone down
4 he / smile	he / tell / us the good news
5 I / walk / to school	I / realized it was the weekend
6 the builder / drink tea	the wall / fell down
7 Kate / smile	I / look at her
8 we / look for / Kim's present	we / saw Kim

1 I was getting ready for school when something strange happened.
2 Dad _____
3 When _____
4 He _____
5 When _____
6 When _____
7 Kate _____
8 We _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS