16

GRAMMAR Past continuous

A Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs in the box.

have	listen	open	shop	stay	visit

1 She *was having* lunch with her family.
2 He ..... to music in his bedroom.
3 I ..... with friends in Jakarta.
4 They ..... at the mall opposite the cinema.
5 I ..... the packet of biscuits that you gave me.
6 You ..... your family on the farm.

B Rewrite the sentences in exercise A as negative sentences.

1 *She wasn't having lunch with her family*
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....

C Make questions from the statements.

1 You were talking about me.
Were you taking about me?
2 She was walking to work.
.....
3 They were buying some new clothes.
.....
4 He was calling his sister on the phone.
.....
5 Your parents were having a nice time.
.....
6 I was spending too much time online.
.....

D Look at the pictures and complete the sentences with the present continuous and present simple forms of the verbs in brackets.

1 

I *was watching* TV when the cat *came* in.
(watch / come)

2 

We ..... in Egypt when we ..... this.
(live / buy)

3 

He ..... the house when it ..... to rain.
(leave / start)

4 

They ..... to a party when the car ..... down.
(go / break)

E Complete the text with the present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

I [1] *was living* in Spain when I met Miguel. I [2] ..... (work) as a teacher at a language school in Granada. One day, I [3] ..... (sit) at a table in the café next door to the school when he [4] ..... (come) in. I [5] ..... (notice) him at once because I [6] ..... (think) he was very good looking. I [7] ..... (walk) to the door when he [8] ..... (look) right at me and smiled. He [9] ..... (have) lovely eyes. We [10] ..... (get married) six months later.

PRONUNCIATION Sentence stress and weak forms

A 16.3 Listen to how *was* and *were* are pronounced in these sentences. Are they weak or stressed? Write *W* for weak and *S* for stressed.

1 I was watching TV at home. ..... *W* .....
2 What were you thinking about? .....
3 She wasn't looking for a boyfriend. .....
4 I was making a coffee in the kitchen. .....
5 They were eating outside under the trees. .....
6 We weren't playing tennis when you saw us. .....

B Now listen again and underline the stressed words in each sentence.

C Listen and check. Repeat the sentences.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING

A Read the love stories. How many of the couples got married?

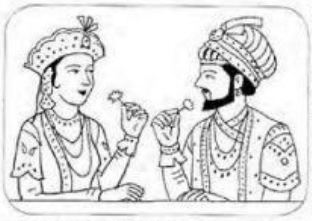
Great love stories

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE



Orpheus and Eurydice fell in love, married and lived together happily until Eurydice was bitten by a snake and died. Orpheus travelled to the Underworld. He sang beautiful songs to Hades, the god of the dead. Hades agreed to let Eurydice return with Orpheus. But he told Orpheus that he must not look at her until they were both back in their world. But Orpheus turned around just before they got back and Eurydice disappeared forever.

SHAH JAHAN & MUMTAZ MAHAL



Emperor Shah Jahan was fifteen when he married 14-year-old Mumtaz Mahal in 1607. They were together for seventeen happy years and had fourteen children before Mumtaz died. The emperor was heartbroken. The following year, he started construction of the Taj Mahal, a huge white building in memory of his wife. It took nearly twenty-one years to complete. When Jahan died, he was buried next to his wife in the Taj Mahal.

LAYLA AND MAJNUN



Layla and Qays fell in love when they were young. Qays wrote love poems about Layla, and when they were older he asked Layla's father if they could get married. Her father said no. Qays was heartbroken. He ran into the desert and stayed there. He started behaving very strangely and people called him 'Majnun', meaning 'mad man'. Layla married another man and moved away. Majnun followed her, but they were never together in life. But when they died, they were buried side by side, together at last.

Glossary

snake: a long, thin animal with no legs and a smooth skin
the Underworld: in old stories, a place below the earth where people go when they die
bury: to put a person who has died in the ground
behave: to do things in a particular way
at last: used when something which you have been waiting for finally happens

B Read the stories again and circle the correct answers.

1 Eurydice was killed by a **dog / snake.**
2 Orpheus went **to the Underworld / abroad** to get Eurydice back.
3 Shah Jahan married Mumtaz Mahal when he was **fourteen / fifteen**.
4 Construction of the Taj Mahal took **under / over** twenty years.
5 **Qays / Layla** went mad.
6 Layla married **Majnun / another man**.

C Are statements 1–6 true or false?

1 Hades agreed to let Orpheus take Eurydice with him. T F
2 Eurydice disappeared because Orpheus turned and looked at her. T F
3 Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal had seventeen children. T F
4 Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal are buried together. T F
5 Layla's father wanted Qays to marry his daughter. T F
6 Layla and Majnun were reunited in death. T F

LIVEWORKSHEETS