



English – Year 5B

PAST SIMPLE vs. PAST CONTINUOUS

1 Read the text. What is unusual about this team photo?



In 2001, Manchester United **were preparing** for a Champions League football match. The sun **was** shining and the crowd **were cheering**. While a photographer **was taking** a photo of the team, a strange thing happened. A man walked onto the pitch and joined them. The players **weren't looking** and didn't say anything. He **was wearing** the Manchester United kit, but he **wasn't** a player. Who was he? Why **was** he **standing** with the team? Eventually, the truth came out: the man was a practical joker called Karl Power.

2 Look at the **past continuous** forms in the text. Then complete the table with the correct form of the verb *be*.

Past continuous
affirmative
I ¹ _____ reading. We ² _____ listening.
negative
It ³ _____ snowing. They ⁴ _____ playing.
interrogative
⁵ _____ you sleeping? What ⁶ _____ he doing?

3 Read the *Learn this!* box. Find one example of the uses 1–3 in the text in exercise 1.

4 Complete the text. Use the past continuous form of the verbs below.

do not rain stand take think wait

Everybody in the stadium¹ _____ for the match to start. The players² _____ on the pitch. Some of them³ _____ exercises and others⁴ _____ about the game. It was a cold night. It⁵ _____, but the ground was wet. A lot of spectators⁶ _____ photos with their mobile phones.

- ▶ You are going to watch a video. Before you watch it, make sure you know the meaning of *blackout*.
- ▶ Watch the first part of the video and say what the people were doing when the lights went out.
- ▶ Watch the second part of the video and answer: Why did the lights go out, according to Mr Watts? What does Gloria think happened?

5 Choose the correct option in each case.

In 1904, in the middle of a summer afternoon, Fred Lorz was running (run) the Olympic marathon. The sun ¹ _____ (shine) and it was very hot. Nine miles into the race, Fred ² _____ (feel) tired, so he ³ _____ (decide) to stop. While he ⁴ _____ (sit) next to the road, his manager ⁵ _____ (drive) past, ⁶ _____ (stop) his car, and Lorz ⁷ _____ (get) in. But eleven miles later, the car ⁸ _____ (break) down, so Lorz ⁹ _____ (start) running again. He ¹⁰ _____ (come) first in the race, but while he ¹¹ _____ (get) his gold medal, a spectator ¹² _____ (complain). Lorz ¹³ _____ (give) back the medal immediately, and said 'It ¹⁴ _____ (be) just a joke!'



7 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs.

- 1 My brother was climbing a tree when he fell ... and broke his leg. (climb, fall).
- 2 When my parents home, we a DVD. (come, watch)
- 3 Jordan while my sister some homework. (phone, do)
- 4 While I tennis, a ball me in the eye. (play, hit)
- 5 Kimberley the web when she a great new site. (surf, find)
- 6 While we on the beach, it to rain. (walk, start)

6 Complete the rule. Write *past simple*, *past continuous*, *when*, and *while*.

RULE: We use the for an action that happened at one moment in the past. We often use with this tense.

We use the for a background action or description in the past. We often use with this tense.