

Past simple; Past continuous; used to**1 Complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs given.**

Manuel Vázquez Montalbán was the creator of Spain's most famous detective, José 'Pepe' Carvalho. Montalbán (a) (be) a novelist, poet and journalist from Spain. He was born in Barcelona and (b) (love) the city very much.

Detective Pepe Carvalho is a very funny man with a passion for Barcelona's food and football club. The character of Pepe (c) (appear) for the first time in a novel in 1972, but he (d) (change) a lot over the years. Montalbán never (e) (become) tired of his character and so (f) (not kill) him in his stories. Instead, Detective Pepe Carvalho sadly (g) (die) with his creator in 2003.

2 Circle the correct alternative.

Eugene Brown used (a) to be/being a criminal. When he was 20, police (b) used to arrest/arrested him for robbery in Washington, D.C., and he (c) used to spend/spent 18 years in prison. When he was in prison, he (d) use/used to play chess with a friend. While playing chess, he often (e) used to talk/was talking to his friend about his life. This made him realise something important: in his old life, he didn't (f) use/used to feel responsible for the choices he made. After he left prison, he (g) used to start/started a chess club for kids who had difficult lives. Now he (h) used to teach/teaches kids about chess and about how to improve their lives.

3 Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs given.

- I (try) to find the novel by Agatha Christie on my bookcase.
- I (not work) by myself to collect the evidence – I was part of a team.
- Someone (shout) at the shoplifter, 'Tell the truth!'
- The police (question) the suspects at 5 pm yesterday.
- What you (look) for in my bedroom?

4 Circle the correct alternative.

- When the inspector arrived/was arriving on the crime scene, the police were collecting the evidence.
- They investigated/were investigating the case when the robbers turned up at the police station.
- The woman shoplifted clothes worth £1,000 while nobody looked/was looking.
- I used to read/read a new detective novel last week – it was great!
- I didn't use to behave/wasn't behaving well when I was younger.

5 Circle the correct alternative.

One of Agatha Christie's most famous novels is *Murder on the Orient Express*. Private detective Hercule Poirot, (a) used to travel/was travelling from Istanbul to London on a luxurious train called the Orient Express when he (b) came across/was coming across a businessman called Mr Ratchett. Ratchett (c) believed/was believing that his life was in danger but Poirot (d) didn't help/wasn't helping him. On the second night of the journey, Poirot (e) slept/was sleeping in his bed when he (f) was hearing/heard a cry from Ratchett's compartment. The next morning, the train staff (g) were finding/found Mr Ratchett was dead. Poirot (h) analysed/was analysing the evidence and discovered that Ratchett (i) used to live/was living in the US but that he had killed someone there and run away. All the people in the coach had a connection to that person's family. So, who (j) used to kill/killed Ratchett?