

## Past continuous; Past simple and past continuous

### 1 Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs given.

- He wrote the bestseller while he ..... in Italy. (stay)
- They ..... still ..... loudly when the lights came on. (clap)
- I ..... the ballet when my phone rang. I was so embarrassed. (watch)
- They ..... literature at university when they met the author. (study)
- She ..... as an actress when she met the director. (not work)

### 2 Circle the correct alternative.

It was eight o'clock and we (1) watching/ were watching a film on TV. My sister (2) was/were talking but I (3) didn't/wasn't listening to her. My brother (4) wasn't/weren't watching the film. He was (5) looked/looking at his phone. In the film, an astronaut and a scientist (6) was/were trying to fight some aliens. My dad came in and turned the TV off. 'Hey!' we all shouted. 'Oh, sorry. (7) You were/Were you watching that?' he said. My dad is so annoying sometimes!

### 3 Circle the correct alternative. If *when* or *while* are both possible, circle both.

- The shop assistant was talking to a customer when/ while a police officer entered the shop.
- I started to feel ill when/while I was waiting to see the dentist.
- They were visiting an art exhibition when/while they saw a famous actor.
- Were you listening to classical music when/while I came to your house?
- Did you see all the firefighters when/while you were walking to school?

### 4 Find and correct the mistakes in the past simple or past continuous.

- They didn't talk while they watching the film.  
.....
- My dad was working as a journalist when he was meeting my mum.  
.....
- I saw my favourite singer while I was walked to the shop.  
.....
- When Sally were studying to be a vet, she got a job at the zoo.  
.....

- While we were eating our dinner in the restaurant, the chef was coming to our table.  
.....

### 5 Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of these verbs.

jump • say • travel • work • walk

- The composer ..... by train when she had an idea for some new music.
- The last time I saw him, the vet ..... I should give my dog different food.
- Both actors ..... in the theatre when they met the famous film director.
- While the firefighter was climbing the tree, the cat ..... down.
- It was a cold day and the police officers ..... up and down to keep warm.

### 6 Choose the best answers (A, B or C).

I (1) ..... to the theatre last night. It was very good. The actress who (2) ..... Lady Macbeth was amazing. But while she (3) ..... a big speech, someone's phone (4) ..... . It was awful! We (5) ..... dinner after the show in a restaurant near the theatre. While we (6) ..... , we (7) ..... some of the actors from the play. They (8) ..... dinner and talking. I (9) ..... for a photo – they (10) ..... , they (11) ..... and I didn't want to interrupt them.

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|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 A went            | B was going     | C was go          |
| 2 A was playing     | B were playing  | C played          |
| 3 A gave            | B was giving    | C were giving     |
| 4 A rang            | B were ringing  | C was ringing     |
| 5 A were having     | B was having    | C had             |
| 6 A were eating     | B was eating    | C ate             |
| 7 A were seeing     | B was seeing    | C saw             |
| 8 A was having      | B had           | C were having     |
| 9 A wasn't asking   | B didn't ask    | C weren't asking  |
| 10 A wasn't working | B didn't work   | C weren't working |
| 11 A relaxed        | B were relaxing | C was relaxing    |