



Past simple; Past continuous

1 Complete the dialogues with the past simple form of the verbs given.

- 1 **A:** Why the police
(arrest) the suspect?
B: Because they (find) evidence he
was near the bank yesterday.
- 2 **A:** What they (steal)?
B: They (take) a diamond ring worth
£100,000 and then they (escape)
through the window.
- 3 **A:** What time they
(break) into your flat?
B: In the morning, when I (be) at
work. My neighbour (see) them
running away.
- 4 **A:** What the police
(accuse) the businessman of?
B: Fraud, I think. But he (has) a good
lawyer, so he (not go) to prison in
the end.

2 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.

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

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

4 Circle the correct alternative.

- 1 When the inspector arrived/was arriving on the crime scene, the police were collecting the evidence.
- 2 They investigated/were investigating the case when the robbers turned up at the police station.
- 3 The woman shoplifted clothes worth £1,000 while nobody looked/was looking.
- 4 There was no answer because everybody tried/was trying to call the emergency telephone number at the same time.
- 5 I left the sweets in the sun for a day and they melted/were melting!

5 Circle the correct alternative.

One of Agatha Christie's most famous novels is *Murder on the Orient Express*. Private detective Hercule Poirot, (a) travelled/was travelling from Istanbul to London on a luxurious train called the Orient Express when he (b) came across/was coming across an American 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 had killed someone in the US and that all the people in the coach had a connection to that person's family. So, who (i) was killing/killed Ratchett?