

Date: Marks:

12 News Reports

Past Continuous Tense



Grammar in Focus

We use the **past continuous tense** to talk about an action that continued for a period of time in the past.

What	was	she	doing	at 6 pm?	She	was watching	TV.
	were	they		last night?		They	were having

We use **'while'** to link two continuous actions that happened at the same time.

I was reading while my sister was playing the piano.

We use **'when'** to link a longer action to a shorter action in the past.

I was walking in the street when I met John.



Mistakes Corner

- ✓ Mum was talking on the phone while I was doing homework. ✗ Mum was talking on the phone when I was doing homework.

1. John was watching TV (**A** while / **B** when) his father was cooking.

2. I was going to school (**A** while / **B** when) I saw Mr Lee.

A. Matt read about some crimes in the newspaper. Rearrange the letters to form correct verbs. Then fill in the last blank with the correct answer.



a c s h e

1. _____



e a p s e c

2. _____



l s e a t

3. _____



c t a h c

4. _____

5. In picture 3, Isabel **was waiting** for a bus **when** a monkey _____ her bananas.

B. Isabel is talking about what different people were doing at eight o'clock last night. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the given verbs.

e.g. Tim and Helen _____ were having _____ (have) dinner.

1. Queenie _____ (cut) her fingernails.

2. Tom _____ (iron) the clothes.

3. Jason and Carmen _____ (chat) about the school picnic.

4. Jack _____ (help) his mum clean the house.

5. Fanny _____ (take) pictures of her roses.

6. Sam and David _____ (practise) football.

7. Raymond _____ (tidy) his desk.

8. Jolly and her brother _____ (listen) to the radio.

9. Aunt Ivy _____ (dance) in the park.

10. What _____ May _____ (do)?

11. What _____ your friends _____ (play)?

C. Hugo is writing about his family. Put the words in order to make correct sentences.

1. rang. My brother was when having dinner the telephone

2. when chatting I My sisters were entered house. the

3. dog the was My dad was while washing the dishes sleeping.

D. Matt is reading a news report. Fill in the blanks with 'when' or 'while' and the correct form of the given verbs.

Who Caught the Animal?

20th Feb, 20XX

A man caught a panda in Sunny Forest yesterday afternoon. Mr Brown, a vet, was a witness to the crime.

e.g. 'I _____ was taking _____ photos when I _____ heard _____ a strange sound.

★
① I _____ around when a man _____ past me. Then,

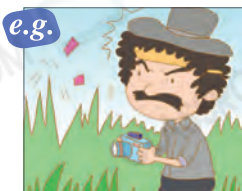
② the man _____ the panda up _____ I _____

closer. ③ The man _____ to a car _____ he

_____ a key. ④ The man _____ away _____ I

_____ him. I'm still shocked by what I saw!'

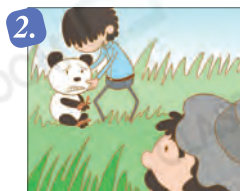
There have been similar cases in other forests this year. Call the police if you see this man.



e.g. take, hear



1. look, run



2. tie, move



3. run, drop



4. drive, chase

E. Isabel is talking to Matt and Hugo. Look at the pictures and complete the conversation with the help of the given words.



look at the stars /
sleep on the grass



cook dinner /
ask me for water



put up our tent /
pick stones



lie on the ground /
walk along the path

Isabel: Where is Bean? I am so worried.

Matt : We should stay calm. Let's try to remember what we did yesterday. What

① _____ you and Hugo _____ at 6:30 pm last night?

Isabel: I ② _____ while Hugo _____.

Matt : When did you last see Bean?

Isabel: At 7 pm. At that time, I ③ _____

when Bean _____ . What about you?

When did you last see Bean? What ④ _____ you _____ at that time?

Matt : I saw Bean at 9 pm. At that time I ⑤ _____

_____ while Bean _____.

Hugo : Don't worry! I found Bean. Bean ⑥ _____

while I _____.

Isabel: Oh! Bean, you got hurt!

Matt : Don't be afraid, Bean. Let me look after you.

Stay calm while facing problems.