

12 Reporting News Stories

Past Continuous Tense + Connectives -
when / while

Date:

Grade:



Grammar Explained



- a) We use the **past continuous tense** to talk about an event that continued for some time in the past.

What **were** you **doing** last night?

I **was playing** the guitar.

We **were making** a dessert.

- b) We can use the connective '**when**' to join a longer event and a shorter event in the past. We use the **past continuous tense** to talk about the longer event and the simple past tense to talk about the shorter event.

longer event

shorter event

Mum **was bathing**

I came home.

when

The babies **were sleeping**

the phone rang.

- c) We use the connective '**while**' to link two continuous events that happened at the same time in the past.

The students **were talking**

they **were having** a lesson.

while

Mary's parents **were chatting**

she **was making** some tea.

A Connie and her friends are enjoying their recess in the playground. Circle the longer events and underline the shorter events in the sentences.

e.g. Sally was sitting on the ground when I opened a packet of sweets.

1. Billy and John were running around when Billy dropped his wallet.
2. Ivan was reading a book while Fiona was looking at the butterflies.
3. I was eating snacks while Sally was telling us a joke.
4. Judy was playing badminton when she hurt her knee.
5. We were singing a song when the school bell rang.

B Mr Kim is listening to the news on the radio. Complete the news report with the correct form of the given verbs.

The police arrested a 33-year-old man who attempted to kidnap a boy this morning. The incident happened on Valley Road at around 8:30 pm last night. A 6-year-old boy ① _____ (go) home alone when a man ② _____ (walk) towards him. The boy ③ _____ (walk) along Valley Road when the man ④ _____ (grab) him and threw him into a van. Meanwhile, a woman ⑤ _____ (jog) when she ⑥ _____ (hear) the noise. She quickly ⑦ _____ (call) the police and successfully ⑧ _____ (save) the boy.



C Mrs Kim is reading a news report online. Complete the news report with the correct form of the given verbs.

wait

pack

order

seek

shout

arrive

run

cross

walk

see

22/10/20XX 01:30

There was a robbery in Yau Ma Tei at ten o'clock last night. Three men wearing masks ① _____ into a store. A 30-year-old woman ② _____ in the queue when the men ③ _____ at the cashier and ④ _____ him to take out all the money. A man ⑤ _____ the road when he ⑥ _____ the incident. He ⑦ _____ help from the police while the robbers ⑧ _____ their bags. They ⑨ _____ towards their van when the police ⑩ _____. Finally, the police arrested the robbers.



Proofreading

D Underline the mistakes in the numbered lines and write the correct answers on the lines.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Alice : What are you doing yesterday afternoon? | 1. _____ |
| 2. Bowie : I was swim at the beach. My mum was | 2. _____ |
| 3. sunbathing while my dad was sleeps. | 3. _____ |
| 4. Alice : What did your sister doing at that time? | 4. _____ |
| 5. Bowie : She was building a sandcastle. We was | 5. _____ |
| 6. leaving the beach while we saw you. | ⑥ 6. _____ |



Daily Life Grammar

E Mr Kim is watching the news report on TV. Complete the news report with the help of the given words.

when while

wait hold arrive put chase have look talk help



Four robbers broke into actor Jackie Lam's mansion yesterday morning. The kung fu star's lost many valuables including awards, jewellery and famous art pieces. He was in the bathroom ① _____ the robbers entered his home. Our reporter is now interviewing him about the details of the incident.

Well... I ② _____ a shower when I heard a loud sound. Then my dog started to bark crazily. I knew something was wrong so I quickly got dressed and went to see what happened. To my horror, I saw that my maid was tied up on the floor in the living room. I quickly hid behind a cupboard. One of the robbers ③ _____ a knife. Another one ④ _____ on his phone ⑤ _____ he ⑥ _____ my valuables into a bag. Then they ⑦ _____ out of the window. I think they ⑧ _____ for a vehicle to pick them up. A few minutes later, they left in a van. My dog ⑨ _____ after them when they drove away. I ⑩ _____ my maid to get up ⑪ _____ the police ⑫ _____.

