

EXERCISE 1

PAST CONTINUOUS

Choose the correct time expression used with the past continuous tense.

1. What were you doing (while/**during**) the meeting?
2. Tim was finishing the report (in/**at**) five o'clock.
3. They were discussing the problem (**when**/at) I walked into the room.
4. Jackson wasn't listening (**while**/during) he was explaining the situation.
5. Was Alice paying attention (while/**during**) the presentation?
6. They were having a quiet breakfast (**this**/at) morning when he arrived.
7. What were they doing (**when**/in) that happened?
8. Sheila was playing the piano (**while**/during) he was working on the computer.
9. I was working at the computer (**at**/on) seven o'clock this morning.
10. Alex wasn't playing golf (**this**/at) morning. He was working.

EXERCISE 2

PAST CONTINUOUS/PAST SIMPLE

Put the verbs in brackets into the simple past or past continuous tense.

- 1 Mr. Smith never **woke** up in time in the mornings and always **got** into trouble for being late; so one day he **went** to town and **bought** an alarm clock.
- 2 To get home he **had to** go through a field where a bad-tempered bull **was** usually **grazing**.
- 3 This bull normally **didn't chase** people unless something **made** him angry. Unfortunately, as Mr. Smith **was crossing** the field, his alarm clock **went** off.
- 4 This **annoyed** the bull, who immediately **began** to chase Mr. Smith.
- 5 Mr. Smith **was carrying** an open umbrella as it **was raining** slightly. He **threw** the umbrella to the ground and **ran** away as fast as he could.
- 6 The bull **stopped** and **began** to attack the umbrella. While he **was doing** this, Mr. Smith escaped.
- 7 When he **awoke** she **was sitting** by the window. She **was looking** at something in the street, but when he **called** her she **turned** and **smiled** at him.
- 8 Why **were** you **interrupting** me just now? I **was having** a very interesting conversation with Mr. Pitt.

9 The murderer **was carrying** the corpse down the stairs when he **heard** a knock on the door.

10 When I **was looking** through your books I **noticed** that you have a copy of *Murder in the Cathedral*.

11 As they **were walking** along the road they **heard** a car coming from behind them. Tom **turned** round and **held** up his hand. The car **stopped**.

12 When I **arrived** at the station Mary **was waiting** for me. She **was wearing** a blue dress and **looked** very pretty. As soon as she **saw** me she **waved** and **shouted** something, but I couldn't hear what she **was saying** because everybody **was making** such a noise.

13 The prisoner **escaped** by climbing the wall of the garden where he **was working**. He **was wearing** blue overalls and black shoes.

14 She said that the car **was going** at 40 kph when it **began** to skid.

15 She said that she **didn't like** her present flat and **was trying** to find another.

16 While he **was making** his speech the minister suddenly **felt** faint. But someone **brought** him a glass of water and after a few minutes he **was able** to continue.

17 When I **saw** him he **was painting** a portrait of his wife. ~

Did you like it? ~

He only just **started** when I **saw** it, so I couldn't judge.

18 I **took** my friend to a murder trial the other day. ~

Who **was** tried? -

A man called Bill Sykes. ~

Was he acquitted? —

I don't know. They **are** still **listening** to the evidence when we **left**.

19 I **was** sorry that I **had to** leave the party early, because I **wasn't enjoying** myself.

20 As we **were coming** here a policeman **stopped** us. He **said** that he **was looking** for some stolen property and **asked** if he could search the car.

21 I **saw** you yesterday from the bus. Why **were** you **using** a stick? ~
I **was using** a stick because I had hurt my leg that morning falling off a horse. ~

22 The floor **was** covered with balls of wool. Obviously Mrs. Pitt **was knitting** something.

23 Ann said that she **was** on holiday. I **said** that I **hoped** that she **was enjoying** herself.

24 While he **was watering** the flowers it **began** to rain. He **put** up his umbrella and **went** on watering.

25 I just **wrote** a check when I **remembered** that I **had** nothing in the bank.

26 I **found** this ring as I **was digging** in the garden. It looks very old. I wonder who it **belonged** to?

27 When I last **saw** her she **was hurrying** along the road to the station. I **asked** her where she **was going** and she **said**, 'London', but I don't think she **told** the truth because there **wasn't** any train for London at that time.

28 The tailor said, 'Your suit will be ready on Monday.' But when I **called** on Monday he **was** still **working** on it.

29 The teacher **came** into the classroom unusually early and one of the boys, who **was smoking** a cigarette, **had** no time to put it out. So he **threw** it into the desk and **hoped** for the best.

30 A little later the teacher **noticed** that smoke **was rising** from this desk. 'Were you **smoking** when I **came** in?' he **asked**.