

Theme 2

Those Teenage Things

GRAMMAR RECALL

Past Simple and Past Continuous

Read the sentences on the left and match them to a usage on the right.

1. I was doing my homework when my friend knocked on the door.

2. In March 2009, Oman won the Gulf Cup.

3. She was wearing a lovely pink dress and silver shoes.

Use the past simple to describe:

a. a completed action in the past

Use the past continuous to describe:

b. an ongoing activity in the past

c. something that was happening in the past when another action happened

Past simple

I **went** to Salalah **last summer holiday**.

Ahmed **walked** on the beach **yesterday**.

Alexander Graham Bell **invented** the telephone **in 1876**.

Christopher Columbus **discovered** America **in 1492**.

My father **died** **20 years ago**.

Last night my mother **cooked** a delicious food.

My brother **saw** a snake under his bed **last Sunday**.

I **played** football **last week**.

Hafsa **travelled** to France **three months ago**.

Italy **won** the world cup **in 2006**.

Past continuous

ongoing activities in the past

It **was raining**.

She **was wearing** a blue dress in the party.


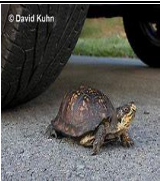


The people **were running** to streets.

The wind **was blowing**.

Past continuous

Something was happening in the past when another action happened

First continuous action	a sudden action
I was driving to my village	when I saw Salim.
She was cooking dinner	when I arrived .
While I was studying ,	my mother called me.
I was doing my homework	when the earthquake started .
While Ali was sleeping ,	someone stole his car.
While I was writing the email,	the computer suddenly went off .
Ahmed was waiting for the bus	when we left the bus stop.

Long action (past continuous)	Short action (past simple)
 <p>A turtle was crossing the road</p>	 <p>when a car crashed it.</p>
 <p>While Sam was swimming in the sea,</p>	 <p>a shark attacked him.</p>

3

Find examples of the past simple and past continuous in the dialogue between Mr Hamed and Nasser in Activity 2. Then read the sentences below and choose the best form of the verb in each.

- a We **were having** / **had** dinner when there was a power cut.
- b J.K.Rowling taught English before she **wrote** / **was writing** the Harry Potter books.
- c When I first lived abroad, I **experienced** / **was experiencing** many problems.
- d What **were you doing** / **did you do** at four o'clock yesterday afternoon? I **was** **drinking** / **drank** coffee with my friends.
- e The film was so boring that I almost **fell** / **was falling** asleep.

3

Jane is talking to a friend the next day. Complete her story by putting each verb in brackets into the past simple or past continuous form.

Hi, Jo! Last night a terrible thing (1) happened (happen). My mum (2) caught (catch) me smoking. I was upstairs in my room. I (3) was sitting (sit) on my bed, reading a book when the door opened and she (4) came (come) in. I nearly freaked out. She was so suspicious! "What's that awful smell, Jane?" she (5) asked (ask). "Nothing, Mum," I (6) answered (answer). Then she (7) saw (see) an empty packet of cigarettes under my bed. "Oh, Jane," she (8) said (say). "What (9) were you doing? (do)? (10) Were you smoking? (smoke)?"



I **was cleaning** my room **when** I **found** a coin.

While I **was watching** TV, my mother **called** me.

I **was walking** on the beach when I **met** my uncle.

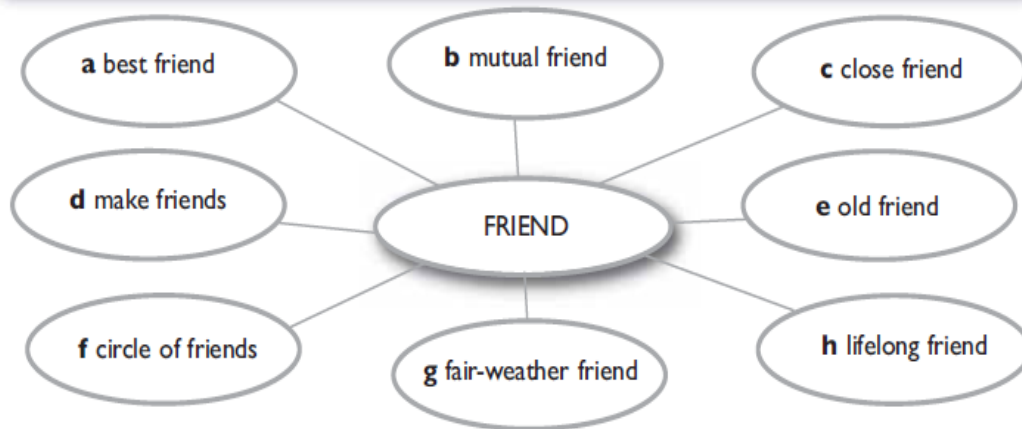
I **was playing** football when I **broke** my leg.

While I **was peeling** an apple, I **cut** my finger.



4

The diagram below shows words and phrases associated with the word 'friend'. Read through the words and phrases and check that you understand them. Then fill in the gaps in the sentences below the diagram with the correct phrases.



- ① Your best friend is the friend you like most.
- ② A mutual friend is someone who is a friend both of you and of someone else you know.
- ③ A fair-weather friend is someone who only wants to be your friend when things are going well for you.
- ④ A close friend is a good friend.
- ⑤ An old friend is someone you have known for a long time.
- ⑥ Your circle of friends is your group of friends.
- ⑦ Some people make friends very easily.
- ⑧ A lifelong friend is someone you have known all your life.

4

Make up five sentences about what you were doing when something else happened. Put one verb in each sentence in the past simple and another verb in the past continuous. Write the sentences on the lines below and compare them with a partner.

Examples: *I was drinking a cup of coffee when the doorbell rang.*
While he was walking along the road it started to rain.
They were driving to Salalah when their car broke down.

1. My parents were drinking coffee when I left home.
2. While I was having my dinner, I bit my tongue.
3. I was walking to school when I met my uncle.
4. While I was doing my homework, my friend rang the door bell.
5. I was watching TV when there was a power cut.

GRAMMAR RECALL

Use the past simple to describe:

- a completed action in the past

Use the past continuous to describe:

- an ongoing activity in the past
- something that was happening in the past when another action happened

2

Choose the best forms of the verbs in these sentences.

- a** I **wasn't doing** / **didn't do** my homework when you **were calling** / **called** me yesterday evening. I **was listening** / **listened** to music.
- b** Ali **was walking** / **walked** down the street when a car was **crashing** / **crashed** in front of him.
- c** **Did you visit** / **were you visiting** the Queen when you were in London?
- d** "What **were you doing** / **did you do** at four o'clock yesterday afternoon?" the policeman asked.
- e** **It was raining** / **rained** yesterday for the first time in three months.
- f** When I first came to Oman, I **wasn't knowing** / **didn't know** any Arabic.
- g** What **were you thinking** / **did you think** about when I was talking to you just now?