



61 Setting the scene

To set the scene in a story, English uses the past continuous to describe the background situation, and descriptive adjectives to say what a place is like.

-  **New language** Past continuous
- Aa Vocabulary** Adjectives to describe places
-  **New skill** Setting the scene for a story

61.1 KEY LANGUAGE PAST CONTINUOUS FOR SCENE-SETTING

The past continuous is formed the same way when setting a scene as for describing past actions in progress.



It was a beautiful day.
The sun *was shining* and the birds *were singing*.
Children *were laughing* and *playing* in the street.



61.2 READ THE STORY AND WRITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS AS FULL SENTENCES

On a busy morning in Georgetown, Special Agent Zoe Gordon was sitting in her car. The picturesque, peaceful little town was looking charming today, surrounded by the magnificent, open country, where colorful wild flowers were blooming. All was well in this magical, rural town... or was it?

People were shopping and chatting on Main Street. Teenagers were skateboarding along the sidewalk, but Zoe was watching the alleyway between two stores. On the other side of the street, two more agents were in position, waiting for someone to appear.

At 11:00, a suspicious-looking man came out of the alleyway, carrying a large bag. The two agents followed him, and Zoe started her car.

Where was Agent Zoe Gordon sitting?

She was sitting in her car.

① What were people doing on Main Street?

② Where were teenagers skateboarding?

③ What was Zoe watching?

④ What were the two other agents doing?

⑤ What was the suspect carrying?

Aa

61.3 MATCH THE DEFINITIONS TO THE WORDS

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Brightly colored | Picturesque |
| 2 | Quiet and calm | Peaceful |
| 3 | Pretty or charming | Open |
| 4 | In the country | Colorful |
| 5 | Not enclosed or fenced | Magical |
| 6 | Mysterious or wonderful | Rural |
- Very impressive and beautiful → Magnificent



61.4 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



You will hear the beginning of a short story.

Sam's face was getting very cold.

True ☒ False ☐ Not given ☐

- 1 People were walking slowly down the street.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

- 2 The waitress was wearing colorful clothes.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

- 3 Sam was eating a cheese sandwich.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

- 4 Sam didn't know what the boy was carrying.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

Aa

61.5 READ THE DIARY AND FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL

September 2013

21 SATURDAY

Today we were walking in the country. The mountains were looking _____ against the blue sky. There were _____ flowers everywhere, and the children were _____ bunches of them to take home. We stopped for coffee in a _____ little village and we sat in the sunshine while the children played in the playground. It was a really _____ day.

~~walking~~

picturesque

colorful

magical

magnificent

picking

61 CHECKLIST



Past continuous ☐

Aa Adjectives to describe places ☐



Setting the scene for a story ☐