

# 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**

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

**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 **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