

62 Interrupted actions

English often uses the past continuous and the past simple together to tell stories, especially when one event interrupts another.

New language Past continuous and past simple

Aa Vocabulary Travel and leisure

New skill Describing interrupted actions

62.1 KEY LANGUAGE PAST CONTINUOUS AND PAST SIMPLE

When English uses the past continuous and past simple together, the past continuous describes a longer, background action, and the past simple describes a shorter action that interrupts the background action.

LONGER BACKGROUND ACTION

SHORTER MAIN ACTION

I **was taking** a photo when **a monkey grabbed** my camera.



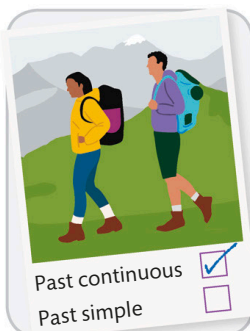
62.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES PAST CONTINUOUS AND PAST SIMPLE

He **was sunbathing** when **it started** to rain.

She **was sleeping** when **the phone rang**.



62.3 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MARK WHICH TENSE DESCRIBES THE ACTIVITY IN EACH PICTURE





62.4 FILL IN THE GAPS BY PUTTING THE VERBS IN THE CORRECT TENSES

When I got back (get back) to my room, a cleaner was vacuuming (vacuum) it.

① When I _____ (enter) the forest, a monkey _____ (swing) through the trees.

② The next day, Chloe _____ (read) a book when Russell _____ (walk) into the café.

③ Kelly and Dean _____ (surf) when Dean _____ (fall) off his board.

④ We _____ (see) some baby turtles while we _____ (jog) along the beach.



62.5 READ THE EMAIL AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Caleb met Owen in a café.

True ☒ False ☐ Not given ☐

① Caleb and Owen were sunbathing when Owen saw a shark.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

② Caleb and Owen stopped sunbathing because they got too hot.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

③ Caleb hurt his ankle because he was rushing back to the hotel.

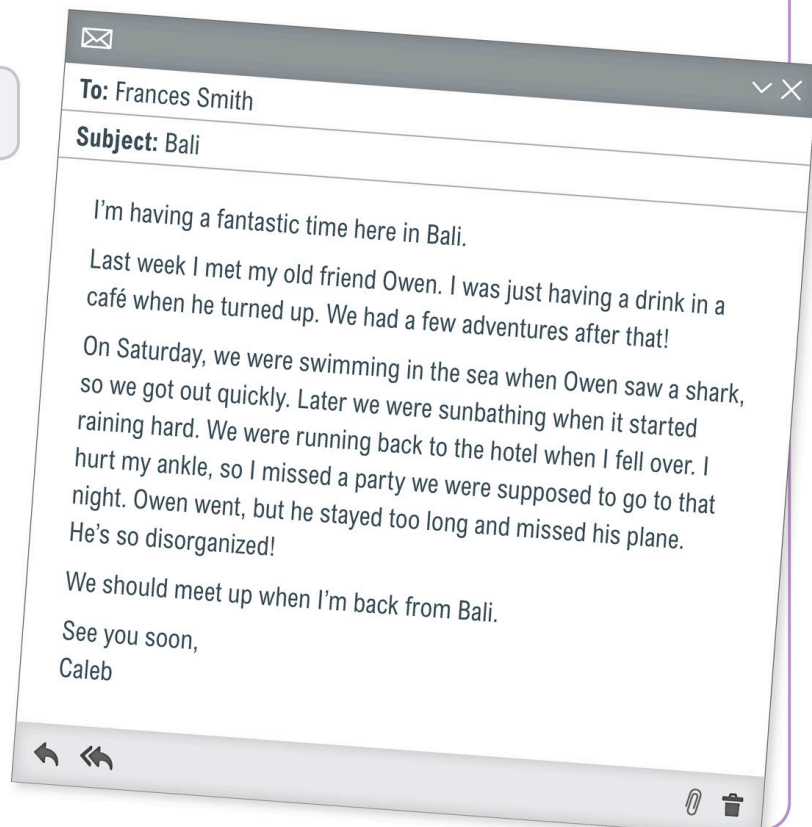
True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

④ Owen enjoyed the party.

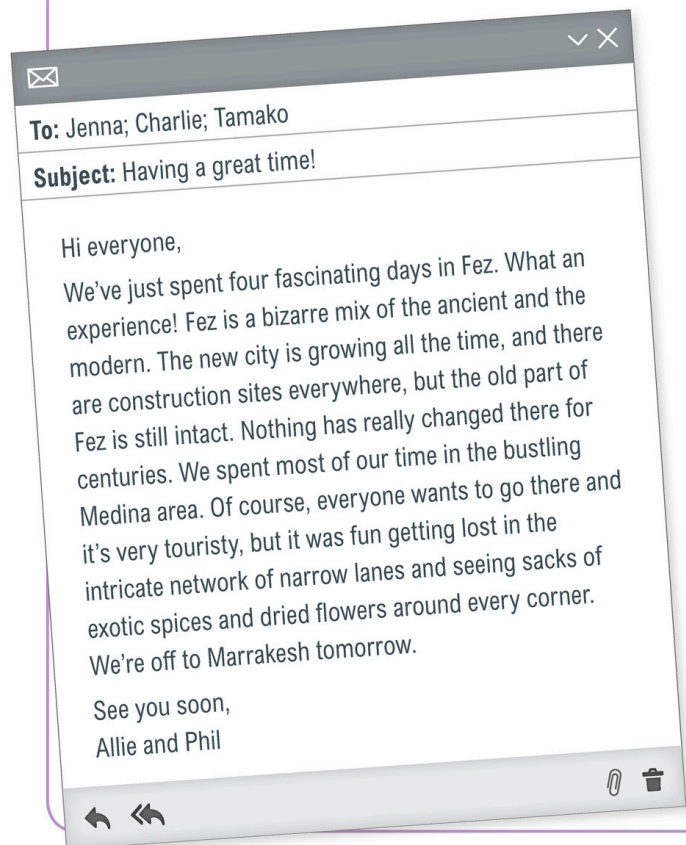
True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

⑤ Caleb missed his plane home.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐



62.6 READ THE EMAIL AND MATCH THE ADJECTIVES THAT HAVE SIMILAR MEANINGS



- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| very interesting | ancient |
| 1 busy and crowded | bizarre |
| 2 strange | fascinating |
| 3 very old | intact |
| 4 complicated | bustling |
| 5 not damaged or changed | touristy |
| 6 colorful and unusual | intricate |
| 7 popular with tourists | exotic |



62.7 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD, FILLING IN THE GAPS

He was eating (eat) a burger when a seagull stole (steal) it.



1 She _____ (surf) when she _____ (fall) off her board.



2 I _____ (read) the menu when the waiter _____ (arrive).



3 It _____ (start) to rain while they _____ (dance) outside.



4 I _____ (dive) when I _____ (see) a shark.



5 He _____ (find) a starfish while he _____ (lie) in the sun.





62.8 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE

I ~~watched~~ / **was watching** a great movie on TV when the phone **rang** / ~~was ringing~~.

- 1 Felipe **took** / **was taking** a long bath when someone **knocked** / **was knocking** on his door.
- 2 Karen **met** / **was meeting** her old friend Madeleine while she **traveled** / **was traveling** in Australia.
- 3 Christopher **cooked** / **was cooking** dinner when his party guests **arrived** / **were arriving** early.
- 4 We **learned** / **were learning** to speak Thai while we **stayed** / **were staying** in Bangkok.
- 5 I **wrote** / **was writing** a report when my boss **asked** / **was asking** me to come to her office.



Aa

62.9 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL

Hi Emily,

Paul and I are having a great time in Marrakesh. Today we were

walking in the old part of the city when we saw an old man.

Actually, he looked _____! He was _____ a large, heavy

basket, so I offered to carry it for him. The old man was _____

at me but I _____ nervous, so I gave the basket to Paul. Suddenly

we arrived in a _____ square with market stalls and people

everywhere. I looked for the old man. He was sitting with the basket

open. He was _____ the flute and out of the basket came two

enormous snakes. I'd never seen anything like it in my life: it was

_____. They were moving to the music he was playing. It was

_____ to watch, but I didn't offer to carry his basket again.

Love Hania

carrying

bustling

walking

playing

fascinating

smiling

ancient

felt

bizarre

62 CHECKLIST



Past continuous and past simple ☐

Aa Travel and leisure ☐



Describing interrupted actions ☐