

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



Past continuous
Past simple



Past continuous
Past simple



Past continuous
Past simple



Past continuous
Past simple



Past continuous
Past simple



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 (enter) the forest, a monkey swing (swing) through the trees.

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

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

4 We see (see) some baby turtles while we jog (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

To: Frances Smith
Subject: Bali

I'm having a fantastic time here in Bali.
Last week I met my old friend Owen. I was just having a drink in a café when he turned up. We had a few adventures after that!
On Saturday, we were swimming in the sea when Owen saw a shark, so we got out quickly. Later we were sunbathing when it started raining hard. We were running back to the hotel when I fell over. I hurt my ankle, so I missed a party we were supposed to go to that night. Owen went, but he stayed too long and missed his plane. He's so disorganized!

We should meet up when I'm back from Bali.
See you soon,
Caleb

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

To: Jenna; Charlie; Tamako
Subject: Having a great time!

Hi everyone,
We've just spent four fascinating days in Fez. What an experience! Fez is a bizarre mix of the ancient and the modern. The new city is growing all the time, and there are construction sites everywhere, but the old part of Fez is still intact. Nothing has really changed there for centuries. We spent most of our time in the bustling Medina area. Of course, everyone wants to go there and it's very touristy, but it was fun getting lost in the intricate network of narrow lanes and seeing sacks of exotic spices and dried flowers around every corner. We're off to Marrakesh tomorrow.

See you soon,
Allie and Phil

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------|
| | 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 (surf) when she fall (fall) off her board.



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



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



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



5 He find (find) a starfish while he lie (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.



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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