

Past Continuous and Past Simple

I can use the Past Continuous and the Past Simple to describe past events

- In pairs, read what people say about e-books and printed books. Which comments do you agree with? Think of more advantages and disadvantages.

When I go on holiday, I don't have to pack heavy books.

I like the feel of a real book in my hands.

I work with computer screens all day – I don't want to read books on a screen too.

Books are so expensive. E-books are cheaper.

- Read about e-ink. Who was Joe Jacobson and why did he have a 'Eureka' moment?

Eureka!



In 1997 Joe Jacobson was working as a researcher for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). One summer, he went on holiday to the coast. He was lying on a beach when he finished his book. Unfortunately, he didn't have another one with him. At that moment, he imagined an electronic book that he could download any time he wanted and read in direct sunlight. It was a 'Eureka' moment. His vision became e-ink technology and helped develop the e-readers that we have today.

- Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS. Which past forms in blue in Exercise 2 complete examples 1–3 correctly?

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Past Continuous and Past Simple

- You use the Past Continuous to talk about longer actions in progress at a time in the past.
- In 1997 Joe Jacobson ¹ was as a researcher for MIT.
- You often use the Past Continuous with the Past Simple – usually when a short action (Past Simple) interrupted a longer action (Past Continuous).
- He ² was on a beach when he ³ finished his book.

Past Continuous: was/were + -ing form

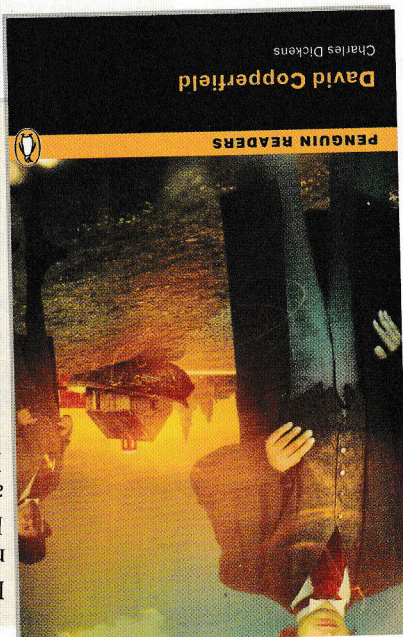
+ He was working ...

– You weren't working ...

? Were they working ...?

Yes, they were./No, they weren't.

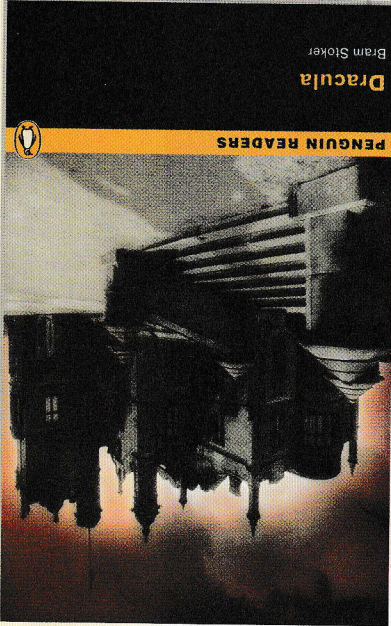
- Read the beginnings of two stories. In your notebook, write the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.



David Copperfield Charles Dickens

It was a terrible stormy night six months after my father's death. My mother ¹ was sitting (sit) alone by the fire, waiting for her baby to arrive. She ² (feel) sad and ill. Suddenly she ³ (hear) a noise outside. 'There's someone at the door, Peggy; my mother ⁴ (call). 'Who is it?' Peggy was her servant and her only real friend. 'I'll go and see, Peggy' ⁵ (reply). She ⁶ (go) and ⁷ (open) the door.

As the carriage moved quickly along the rough dry road, Jonathan Harker ⁸ (look out) at the changing view. Behind him was a land of small, green hills and colourful fields of fruit trees. Now he ⁹ (drive) into the Transylvanian mountains through a thick forest. It ¹⁰ (get) dark, and the other people in the carriage ¹¹ (be) quiet and afraid. A woman opposite him ¹² (reach) towards him and ¹³ (put) something in his hand. It ¹⁴ (be) a small, silver cross. 'Wear it around your neck,' she said. 'You'll be safe.'



Dracula Bram Stoker

- Which story would you like to continue reading and why?

Discuss in pairs.

- Copy the sentences and complete them with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Which sentences are true for you?

- 1 My parents ¹ (study) when they ² (met).
- 2 My computer ³ (crash) when I ⁴ (do) my homework last night.
- 3 I ⁵ (watch) TV when my mum ⁶ (get) home yesterday.
- 4 It ⁷ (rain) when I ⁸ (wake up) this morning.
- 5 I ⁹ (burn) myself when I ¹⁰ (make) breakfast.
- 6 A friend ¹¹ (text) me when I ¹² (walk) to school.

- 7 In pairs, write in your notebooks questions for the sentences in Exercise 6. Change pronouns where necessary. Then ask each other the questions.

A: Were your parents studying when they met?
B: No, they weren't.