

Past Continuous

Fishy stories

In small groups, ask each other what you were doing yesterday at these times. In your answers, tell two lies. See if the group can identify which answers are lies.

05:00,	09:45,	12:00,	16:10,	19:15,	10:30
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In groups, brainstorm some very unlikely activities, write them on small pieces of paper and collect them into a pile, face down. Swap piles with another group.

(If any group is having difficulty coming up with ideas, add a few of these to their pile.)

catching a large fish,	saving someone's life,	snake charming,	bungee jumping,	hitch-hiking,
sailing across the ocean,	robbing a bank,	riding a cow,	darning socks,	having an operation,
swimming with sharks,	having lunch with the US President			

Take turns to pick a piece of paper from the pile, and explain to the group that you were doing the activity on the piece of paper at 7 a.m. yesterday. Answer their questions, e.g.

A – At 7 a.m. yesterday morning, I was flying in a balloon.

B – Why were you flying a balloon?

A – Because I was doing a scientific experiment.

C – Ah, and who was steering it?

A – Oh, there was a pilot ...

Setting the scene

Here are the first lines of five stories. Write a few more sentences to set the scene, e.g. *The birds were singing and a lovely breeze was blowing off the lake. John was sitting on the jetty fishing. He was thinking about ...*

When we left the hotel it was a fine evening ... The office was in a terrible state this morning... When I arrived the party had already started... It was a beautiful spring morning... I only left the kids for a minute and when I got back...

In small groups, read each other's ideas. Choose the best one and develop the story further. Delegate one person to do the writing. Choose someone to read the story out to the rest of the class.

In pairs, discuss what was happening when ...

... you came into class.

... you arrived at school.

... you last switched on the TV.

...you last went into work.

... got home yesterday.

... you went out this morning.

Alibis

Last night at about 7.45 p.m. there was a murder. Two of you are suspects. (Choose two students.) Go outside the classroom and agree the details of everything you did yesterday evening from 7.15 to 8.15 p.m.

The rest of the class, you are investigators. Work in two groups and prepare a list of questions about what the suspects were doing at 7.45 p.m. Try to think of every detail. For example, if they went to a restaurant, where did they sit, what did they talk about, what was the waitress wearing?

Each group, interrogate one of the suspects. When you have finished, swap suspects and repeat your questions to the other one. Make a note of any differences you notice between the two stories. At the end report back to the class. What differences did you find? Are they guilty or not guilty?