

Past Continuous and Simple

Newspaper headline

Work In pairs. Write a few sentences about these headlines. Include information about what was happening when the event took place, e.g. Hikers stranded in snowstorm, A search and rescue team took nine hours to find a French couple yesterday, after a freak snowstorm hit the Pyrenees. Anton and Agathe Duval were hiking on the highest peak when the blizzard struck ...

MP collapses at conference

Lights go out at opening ceremony

Man eaten by pet alligator

Near miss at airport

Robbers caught during raid

Road rage in motorway jam

Jogger mauled by dog

Shopper sees Elvis

In your pairs, write a headline of your own, if possible about a story in the news at the moment. Pass it to the next pair and see if you can expand on the headline that is passed to you. I'll collect them in and read them out as a news bulletin.

What next?

Work in two groups. Write fifteen nouns on separate pieces of paper. Put them face down in the middle of the other group.

Take turns to choose a piece of paper and use the word to make a sentence about what you were doing when something else happened. Answer a question from the group about what you did next, e.g. TV

A – I was watching TV when the phone rang.

B – What did you do when the phone rang?

A – When the phone rang, I answered it.

Lifelines

Look at the lifeline. In pairs, write a few sentences with while and when making up any details as necessary, e.g. While he was living in Macau, he had an operation for ..., When his parents divorced, he moved to England with his ..., because ...

Born in Macau 1970	Moved to UK 1978	University 89–93	Travelled 94–96	Worked in bank 97–98	Returned to London 1999
Hospital operation 1974. Parents divorced 1977.	Secondary school 1981. Started guitar lessons.	Met girlfriend 1991. Went to Peru on holiday.	Married 1995. Accident in Namibia 1996.	Learnt French. Baby Rianne born 1997. Formed band.	First hit record 2000. Bought a mansion 2002.

Draw your own lifeline. Exchange it with another student. Ask each other for more information and write similar sentences.

Accident report

I'm going to dictate a description of an accident.

Yesterday morning at 8.30 there was an accident between a bicycle and a lorry at the junction of Green Lanes and Seven Sisters Road. It was raining, but visibility was good. The lorry was travelling up Green Lanes and the cyclist was travelling west. Neither the lorry driver nor the cyclist was injured, but the bicycle was mangled wreck. The driver and the cyclist both have to make a report to the police, which will be used in an insurance claim. They blame each other. There are some independent witnesses.

Work in groups of four to role-play the ensuing argument. (Add other roles if there are spare students in one group, e.g. the lorry driver's mate.)

Student A, you are the lorry driver.

Student B, you are the cyclist.

Student C, you are a witness.

Student D, you are a police officer. Ask questions.

When you have finished, write a report of what happened, from your point of view. Include information/questions about the traffic, the location, speed and direction of the vehicles and what you heard and saw next. Take turns to read out your report.

In groups, tell each other about an accident you have been involved in, or witnessed.