

Use Unit 9, after classroom activity 5	Activity in pairs; whole class
Duration 15 mins.	Focus Past simple vs. past continuous

Preparation

Make one copy of the activity sheet for the whole class and cut up the slips along the lines.
Optional: make one copy of the sheet for each student as a handout for the extension.

Procedure

1. The aim of the activity is to show how the past continuous works in a relevant and self-explanatory context that appeals to all learner types.
2. Make sure you have an even number of students in your group. If not, participate in the activity.
3. Hand out sentence beginnings and endings to your group so that each student with a sentence beginning has exactly one matching student with the sentence ending. Each complete sentence has a unique font to make the matches clear.
4. Students now walk around and read out their sentences with the aim of finding their partner. When they think their sentences match, they should check the font style. When all the pairs have found each other, move on to the next step.
5. Pairs now stand together and mime their sentences to the class. No speaking is allowed. The others watch and guess what was going on when something else suddenly happened. Help guide the guessing if necessary. Some of the sentences may need a third person in order to act it out.
6. When the activity has been guessed, pairs hold up their complete sentence and read it out.
7. Once all the teams have acted out their sentences, the class votes for the funniest situation.

Extension

Hand out a copy of the worksheet to every pair of students. Tell them to fold the paper down the middle so that they can only see the sentence beginnings. Ask them to come up with their own sentence endings together. Then each pair reads out their endings at random, while the others guess which sentence beginnings they belong to.



I was texting my friend ...	... when I ran into a lamppost.
I was talking to a nice lady at the bar ...	... when suddenly my wife came in.
I was shopping online ...	... when suddenly my boss came in.
I was ironing my shirt ...	... when I burned my finger.
I was having a shower ...	... when suddenly the water stopped.
I was cooking the evening meal ...	... when I cut my finger.
<i>I was sitting in the theatre ...</i>	<i>... when my friend's mobile rang.</i>
I WAS SHOPPING IN THE SUPERMARKET ...	... WHEN SOMEBODY STOLE MY WALLET.
I was repairing my car ...	... when somebody stopped and offered to help me.
I was riding my bike ...	... when it started to rain.
I WAS WALKING WITH MY GIRLFRIEND ...	... WHEN HER EX CAME ROUND THE CORNER.
I was having a barbecue in the garden ...	... when the neighbour's dog jumped onto the table.