The Past Continuous Exercise

SUBJECT + WAS/WERE + VERB + ING

I was sleeping

A Fill the gaps using the verb in brackets in the past continuous tense.

1. I ................................ letters all day yesterday. (write)
2. You ................................ very slow about it. (be)
3. You ................................ on the phone for hours and hours. (talk)
4. They ................................ much business before lunch. (do NEGATIVE)
5. She ................................ to me all week. Silly cow. (speak NEGATIVE)
6. It ................................ for long. (rain NEGATIVE)
7. What ................................. you ......................... when I phoned yesterday? (do)
8. ........................................ you ................................ TV when it happened? (watch)
9. What ................................. you ......................... at the party? (wear)
10. He ................................. horrible to everyone, the nasty pig! (be)
11. I ................................. computer games all morning. (play)
12. We ................................. all afternoon in the library. (revise)

What you were doing when... something suddenly happened!

Past continuous  ➔ Past simple

B Fill the gaps using the verb in brackets in the past continuous and past simple.

1. I ................................ (watch) TV when a bird ................................ into the window. (fly)
2. The Prime Minister ................................. (relax) on holiday while the country ................................. in crisis. (be)
3. Collin ................................. (have) a shower when Angelina ................................ on the door. (knock)
4. We ................................. (have) a coffee when we ................................. the news on the radio. (hear)
5. The riots ................................. (start) when the President ................................. the country. (visit)
6. Frank ................................. (pick) his nose when the accident ................................. . (happen)
7. The earthquake ................................. (begin) when we ................................. chess. (play)
Answers

A
1. I was writing letters all day yesterday.
2. You were being very slow about it.
3. You were talking on the phone for hours and hours.
4. They weren’t doing much business before lunch.
5. She wasn’t speaking to me all week. Silly cow.
6. It wasn’t raining for long.
7. What were you doing when I phoned yesterday?
8. Were you watching TV when it happened?
9. What were you wearing at the party?
10. He was being horrible to everyone, the nasty pig!
11. I was playing computer games all morning.
12. We were revising all afternoon in the library.

B
1. I was watching (watch) TV when a bird flew into the window.
2. The Prime Minister was relaxing (relax) on holiday while the country was in crisis.
3. Collin was having (have) a shower when Angelina knocked on the door.
4. We were having (have) a coffee when we heard the news on the radio.
5. The riots started (start) when the President was visiting the country.
6. Frank was picking (pick) his nose when the accident happened.
7. The earthquake began (begin) when we were playing chess.