

GRAMMAR SPY™ CASE FILE #008

Operation: Mixed-Up Witness

Past Simple vs. Past Continuous Mission

TOP SECRET

MISSION BRIEFING

Agents, something strange happened at the museum last night. Witnesses gave confusing reports. Your mission is to repair the grammar and uncover what really happened.

QUICK BRIEFING

PAST CONTINUOUS	PAST SIMPLE	INTERRUPTED ACTION
• action in progress • was/were + verb-ing Example: “I was walking.”	• finished action • regular or irregular past verbs Example: “The alarm rang.”	I was studying when the lights went out.

REPAIR THE WITNESS STATEMENTS

Circle the mistake and rewrite the sentence correctly.

WHAT WAS INTERRUPTED?

Draw a line to match the interrupted action.

COLUMN A

- I was eating lunch
- The students were running
- She was calling her mom

We were watching the movie

COLUMN B

- when the fire alarm rang.
- when the lights turned off.
- when the teacher entered.

when the phone died.

DETECTIVE ANALYSIS: Strong Evidence or Weak Evidence?

Read each witness statement and identify: Which action was happening? Which action interrupted? Which tense is used?

CREATE YOUR OWN REPORT

Write 4–5 sentences about a strange event using BOTH past simple and past continuous.

MISSION COMPLETE

Agent Name: _____

Case Status: ☐ SOLVED ☐ UNSOLVED

Grammar Spy™ Badge

1. The guard was sleep when the alarm rang.

Rewrite: _____

2. I walked home when I was seeing the explosion.

Rewrite: _____

3. The lights were flashing while people screamed.

Rewrite: _____

4. She was dropped her bag when she ran.

Rewrite: _____

5. We talked when the thief was escaping.

Rewrite: _____

6. The cameras stopped while the workers were cleaning.

Rewrite: _____

Evidence Card A (example)

“I was reading when the door slammed.”

Happening action (past continuous): _____

Interrupting action (past simple): _____

Tense check: _____

Evidence Card B

Witness statement: _____

Happening action (past continuous): _____

Interrupting action (past simple): _____

Tense check: _____

Evidence Card C

Witness statement: _____

Happening action (past continuous): _____

Interrupting action (past simple): _____

Tense check: _____

Sentence starters

- I was _____ when _____.
- While we were _____, somebody _____.
- The students were _____ when _____.

Your report:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Vocabulary support

screamed, disappeared, arrived, escaped,
suddenly, quickly, quietly