

Exercises

- 4.1 Complete the sentences using these pairs of verbs. Use the past simple in one gap and the past continuous in the other. **A-D**

come – show ~~get – go~~ hope – give live – spend
look – see play – break start – check in

- Just as I was getting into the bath all the lights went off.
- I to go away this weekend, but my boss me some work that I have to finish by Monday.
- When I in Paris, I three hours a day travelling to and from work.
- A friendly American couple chatting to him as he at the hotel reception.
- I bumped into Lena last week. She a lot better than when I last her.
- My boss into the office just as I everyone my holiday photos.
- I badminton four times a week before I my ankle.



This time, use the *same* tense, either past simple or past continuous, in both spaces.

add – taste go off – light not listen – explain push – run not watch – dream

- The smoke alarm when he a candle underneath it.
- I can't remember how to answer this question. I must confess that I while the teacher it to us.
- She more salt to the soup, and then it much better.
- Although the television was on, I it. Instead I about my holidays.
- She open the door and into the room.

- 4.2 Look again at numbers 1, 4, 7 and 11 in 4.1. Which of these sentences could have both verbs in the past simple? What difference in meaning, if any, would there be?

- 4.3 Complete this email with either the past simple or the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Where alternatives are possible, think about any difference in meaning. **A-C**

I (1) (*buy*) a new alarm clock the other day in Taylor's the jewellers, when I actually (2) (*see*) somebody shoplifting. I'd just finished paying for my clock and as I (3) (*turn*) round, an elderly woman (4) (*slowly put*) a silver plate into a bag that she (5) (*carry*). Then she (6) (*walk*) over to another part of the shop and (7) (*pick up*) an expensive-looking watch a number of times. When she (8) (*think*) that nobody (9) (*look*), she (10) (*drop*) it into the bag. Before I (11) (*have*) a chance to tell the staff in the shop, she (12) (*notice*) that I (13) (*watch*) her and (14) (*hurry*) out. Unfortunately for her, two police officers (15) (*walk*) past just at that moment and she (16) (*run*) straight into them.