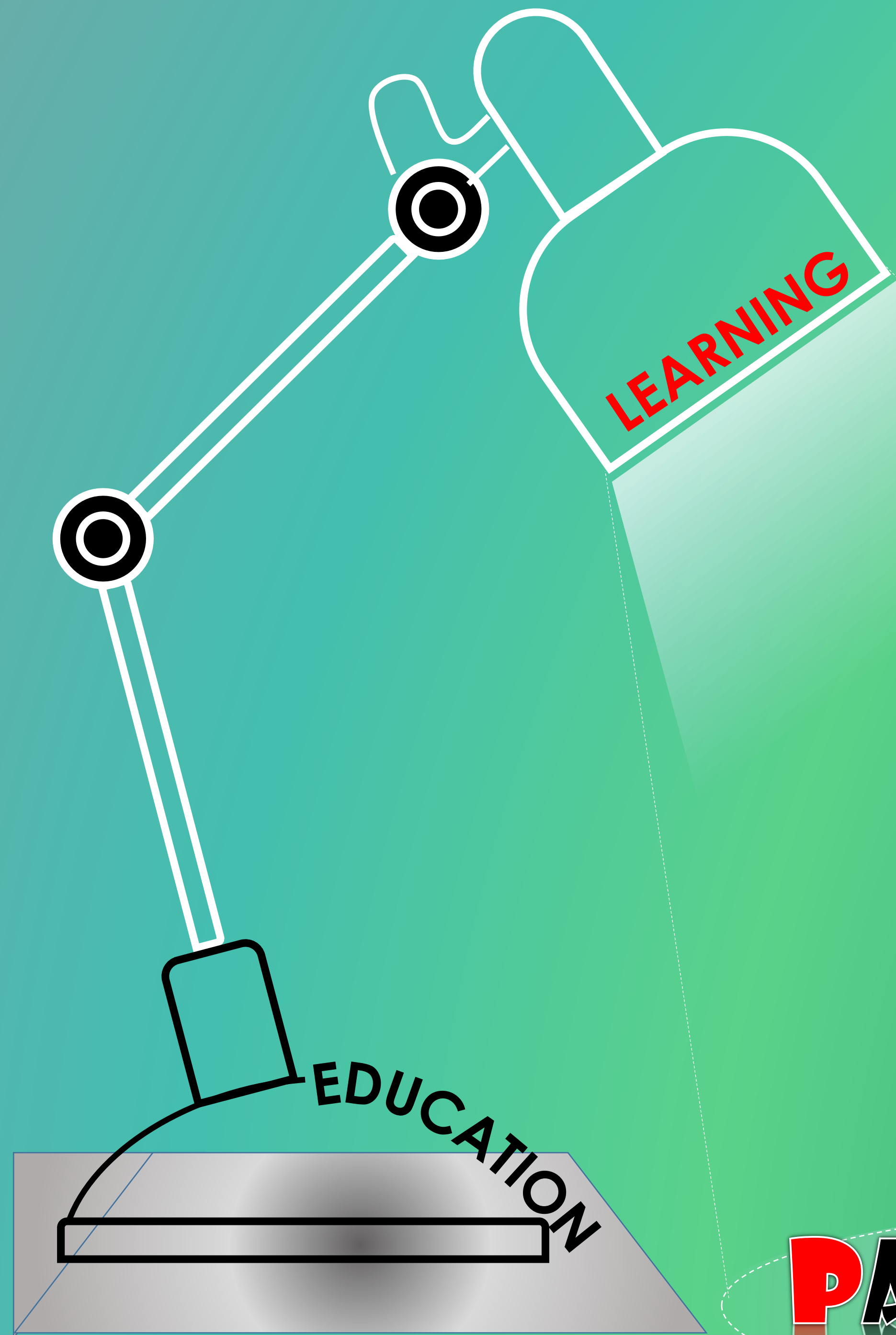


English Department





VERB TO BE

be

is, are, am

was, were

being

been

PAST CONTINUOUS



Past continuous (I was doing)

Study this example situation:



Yesterday Karen and Jim played tennis. They started at 10 o'clock and finished at 11.30.

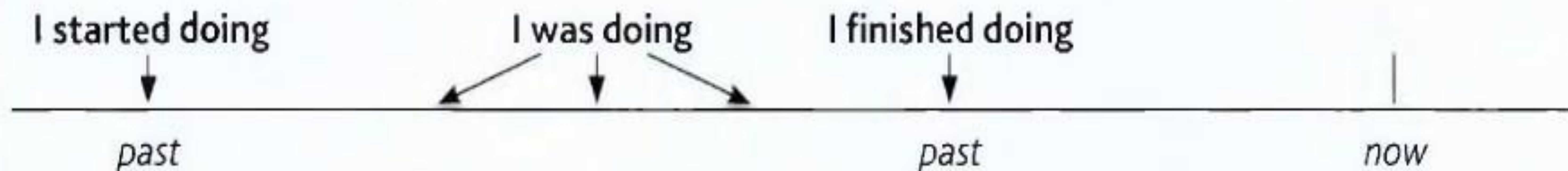
So, at 10.30 they **were playing** tennis.

They **were playing** = they were in the middle of playing.
They had not finished playing.

Was/were -ing is the *past continuous*:

I/he/she/it	was	playing
we/you/they	were	doing
		working etc.

I was doing something = I was in the middle of doing something at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this time, but had not finished:



- This time last year I **was living** in Brazil.
- What **were** you **doing** at 10 o'clock last night?
- I waved to Helen, but she **wasn't looking**.

Compare the *past continuous* (I **was doing**) and *past simple* (I **did**):

Past continuous (in the middle of an action)

- I **was walking** home when I met Dan.
(in the middle of walking home)
- Kate **was watching** TV when we arrived.

Past simple (complete action)

- I **walked** home after the party last night.
(= all the way, completely)
- Kate **watched** television a lot when she was ill last year.

We often use the past simple and the past continuous together to say that something happened in the middle of something else:

- Matt **phoned** while we **were having** dinner.
- It **was raining** when I **got** up.
- I **saw** you in the park yesterday. You **were sitting** on the grass and **reading** a book.
- I **hurt** my back while I **was working** in the garden.

But we use the past simple to say that one thing happened after another:

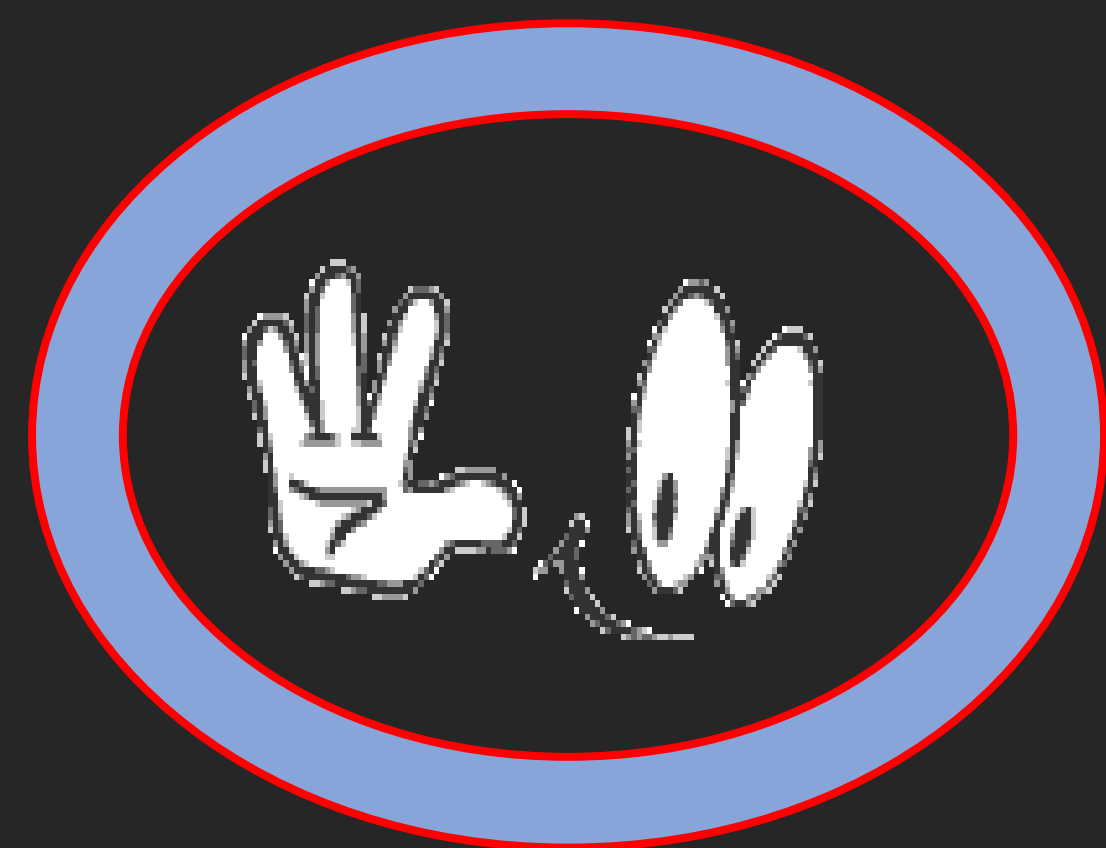
- I **was walking** along the road when I **saw** Dan. So I **stopped**, and we **had** a chat.

Compare:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> When Karen arrived, we were having dinner. (= we had already started before she arrived) | <input type="checkbox"/> When Karen arrived, we had dinner. (= Karen arrived, and then we had dinner) |
|--|--|

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **want**) are not normally used in the continuous (see Unit 4A):

- We were good friends. We **knew** each other well. (*not* We were knowing)
- I was enjoying the party, but Chris **wanted** to go home. (*not* was wanting)



form Subject + was, were + (verb + ing) + co.

Negative Subject + was, were + not (verb + ing) + co.

Interrogative Were, was + Subject + (verb + ing) + co.?



THE EXERCISES



What were you doing at these times? Write sentences as in the examples. The past continuous is not always necessary (see the second example).

1 (at 8 o'clock yesterday evening) I was having dinner.

2 (at 5 o'clock last Monday) I was on a bus on my way home.

3 (at 10.15 yesterday morning) **I was working.**

4 (at 4.30 this morning) **I was in bed asleep.**

5 (at 7.45 yesterday evening) **I was getting ready to go out.**

6 (half an hour ago) **I was watching TV. At home**



THE EXERCISES



Use your own ideas to complete the sentences. Use the past continuous.

- 1 Matt phoned while we *were having dinner*
- 2 The doorbell rang while I **I was having a shower.**
- 3 The car began to make a strange noise when we **were having home.**
- 4 Jessica fell asleep while she **was reading the paper.**
- 5 The television was on, but nobody **was watching it.**



THE EXERCISES



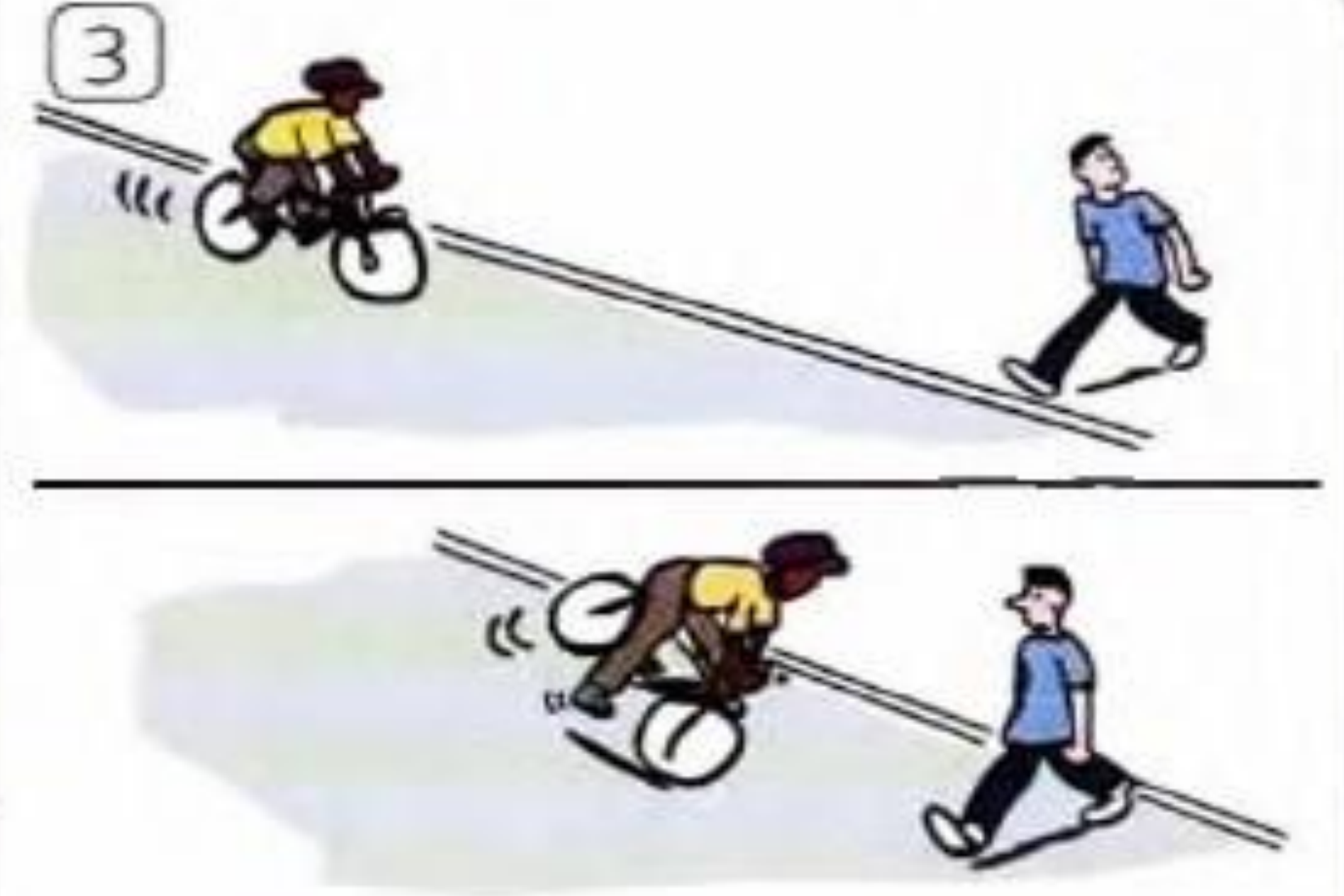
Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or past simple.



1 I **saw** (see) Sue in town yesterday, but she **didn't** (not / see) me. She **was looking** (look) the other way.



2 I **met** (meet) Tom and Jane at the airport a few weeks ago. They **were going** (go) to Paris and I **was going** (go) to Rome. We **had** (have) a chat while we **were waiting** (wait) for our flights.



3 I **was cycling** (cycle) home yesterday when a man **stepped** (step) out into the road in front of me. I **was going** (go) quite fast, but luckily I **managed** (manage) to stop in time and **didn't hit** (not / hit) him.



THE EXERCISES



Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or past simple.

- 1 Jenny **was waiting** (wait) for me when I **arrived** (arrive).
- 2 'What **Were you doing** (you / do) at this time yesterday?' 'I was asleep.'
- 3 ' **Did you go** (you / go) out last night?' 'No, I was too tired.'
- 4 How fast **were you driving** (you / drive) when the accident **happened** (happen)?
- 5 Sam **took** (take) a picture of me while I **wasn't looking** (not / look).
- 6 We were in a very difficult position. We **didn't know** (not / know) what to do.
- 7 I haven't seen Alan for ages. When I last **saw** (see) him, he **was trying** (try) to find a job.
- 8 I **was walking** (walk) along the street when suddenly I **heard** (hear) footsteps behind me. Somebody **was following** (follow) me. I was scared and I **started** (start) to run.
- 9 When I was young, I **wanted** (want) to be a pilot.
- 10 Last night I **dropped** (drop) a plate when I **was doing** (do) the washing-up. Fortunately it **didn't break** (not / break).

Some of useful idioms

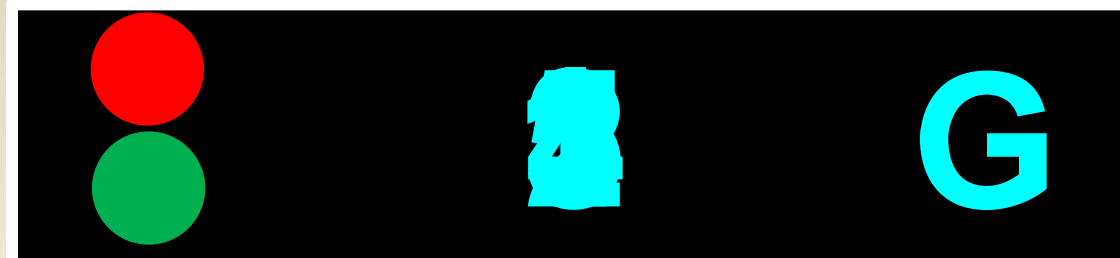
Most of mothers always tickle their babies.

You look fishy!!!!

Make sure there's plenty of juice in your phone before you set off.

My mobile is out of juice.

ممنوع التدخين



No smoking

TOSHIBA

Wash your hands

Wash your hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty

If your hands are not visibly dirty,

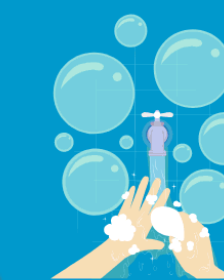


freedom from disease by



Wash your hands

Wash your hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty



If your hands are not visibly dirty,



clean them with alcohol-based soap and water



GOOD BYE!