

Past simple; Past continuous

1 Complete the dialogues with the past simple form of the verbs in the box.

accuse • arrest • be • break • escape • find • have
not go • see • steal • take

- A:** Why the police the suspect?

B: Because they evidence he was near the bank yesterday.
- A:** What they?

B: They a diamond ring worth £100,000 and then they through the window.
- A:** What time they into your flat?

B: In the morning, when I at work. My neighbour them running away.
- A:** What the police the businessman of?

B: Fraud, I think. But he a good lawyer, so he to prison in the end.

2 Complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs in the box.

appear • be • become • change
die • love • not kill

Manuel Vázquez Montalbán was the creator of Spain's most famous detective, José 'Pepe' Carvalho. Montalbán (a) a novelist, poet and journalist from Spain. He was born in Barcelona and (b) the city very much.

Detective Pepe Carvalho is a very funny man with a passion for Barcelona's food and football club. The character of Pepe (c) for the first time in a novel in 1972, but he (d) a lot over the years. Montalbán (e) tired of his character and so (f) him in his stories. Instead, Detective Pepe Carvalho sadly (g) with his creator in 2003.

3 Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs given.

- When the inspector (arrive) on the crime scene the police (collect) evidence.
- They (investigate) the case when the robbers (turn up) at the police station and confessed.

- The woman (shoplift) clothes worth £1,000 while nobody (look).
- There (be) no answer because everybody (call) the emergency number.
- I (leave) the sweets in the sun for a day and they (melt)!

4 Find and correct the mistakes. Two of the sentences are correct.

- My aunt was walking down the High Street when a mugger stole her purse and phone.
.....
- I wasn't looking and I hurted an old man with my umbrella. I apologised immediately!
.....
- While the police questioned the burglar, there was another burglary in town.
.....
- The detectives looked into the case when they came across some important evidence.
.....
- Did you behave well when you were at school?
.....

5 Complete the text with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in the box.

believe • come across • find • hear
kill • not help • sleep • travel • analyse

One of Agatha Christie's most famous novels is *Murder on the Orient Express*. Private detective Hercule Poirot, (a) from Istanbul to London on a luxurious train called the Orient Express when he (b) an American businessman called Mr Ratchett. Ratchett (c) that his life was in danger but Poirot (d) him. On the second night of the journey, Poirot (e) in his bed when he (f) a cry from Ratchett's compartment. The next morning, the train staff (g) Mr Ratchett was dead. Poirot (h) the evidence and discovered that Ratchett had killed someone in the US and that all the people in the coach had a connection to that person's family. So, who (i) Ratchett?