

## Past simple; Past continuous

### 1 Complete the dialogues with the past simple form of the verbs given.

- A:** Why ..... the police ..... (arrest) the suspect?

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

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

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

**B:** Fraud, I think. But he ..... (has) a good lawyer, so he ..... (not go) to prison in the end.

### 2 Complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs given.

Manuel Vázquez Montalbán was the creator of Spain's most famous detective, José 'Pepe' Carvalho. Montalbán **(a)** ..... (be) a novelist, poet and journalist from Spain. He was born in Barcelona and **(b)** ..... (love) 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)** ..... (appear) for the first time in a novel in 1972, but he **(d)** ..... (change) a lot over the years. Montalbán never **(e)** ..... (become) tired of his character and so **(f)** ..... (not kill) him in his stories. Instead, Detective Pepe Carvalho sadly **(g)** ..... (die) with his creator in 2003.

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

- I ..... (try) to find the novel by Agatha Christie on my bookcase.
- I ..... (not work) by myself to collect the evidence – I was part of a team.
- Someone ..... (shout) at the shoplifter, 'Tell the truth!'
- The police ..... (question) the suspects at 5 pm yesterday.
- What ..... you ..... (look) for in my bedroom?

### 4 Circle the correct alternative.

- When the inspector arrived/was arriving on the crime scene, the police were collecting the evidence.
- They investigated/were investigating the case when the robbers turned up at the police station.
- The woman shoplifted clothes worth £1,000 while nobody looked/was looking.
- There was no answer because everybody tried/was trying to call the emergency telephone number at the same time.
- I left the sweets in the sun for a day and they melted/were melting!

### 5 Circle the correct alternative.

One of Agatha Christie's most famous novels is *Murder on the Orient Express*. Private detective Hercule Poirot, **(a)** travelled/was travelling from Istanbul to London on a luxurious train called the Orient Express when he **(b)** came across/was coming across an American businessman called Mr Ratchett. Ratchett **(c)** believed/was believing that his life was in danger but Poirot **(d)** didn't help/wasn't helping him. On the second night of the journey, Poirot **(e)** slept/was sleeping in his bed when he **(f)** was hearing/heard a cry from Ratchett's compartment. The next morning, the train staff **(g)** were finding/found Mr Ratchett was dead. Poirot **(h)** analysed/was analysing 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)** was killing/killed Ratchett?