Simple or Continuous?

1. Complete sentences 1-8 using the Past Continuous or the Past Simple.
   1. He was driving very fast when ...
   2. He heard the good news while he ...
   3. They were travelling to the airport when ...
   4. She was relaxing in a yoga class when ...
   5. While they were having lunch, ...
   6. She injured her back while ...
   7. I was doing some shopping when ...
   8. When we last talked to him, he ...

2. Personalise it! Answer the following questions:

   1. Where were you on New Year’s Eve 1999? What were you doing?
   2. What were you doing at the beginning of this lesson when the teacher walked in?
   3. Where were you in 1997 when you heard the news that Princess Diana had died?
   4. Where were you when you received your last set of exam results? What were you doing?
   5. What were you doing in this lesson before you started this activity?
   6. What were you doing last night when it was time for dinner?

3. Now ask your partner the same questions. Ask each other extra questions if you want to find out more!
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TEACHER’S NOTES:

Aim: to provide further practice of the Past Continuous and Past Simple. This worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 8.3.

Time: 40 minutes maximum

Materials: photocopies of the worksheet for each student.

1 Tell students they have to complete the sentences using Past Continuous and Past Simple and the cues 1-8. If necessary do the first one with them as an example. Check answers with the class.

Suggested answers: 1 He was driving very fast when he saw a speed camera! 2 He heard the good news while he was driving to work. 3 They were travelling to the airport when he decided to propose to her! 4 She was relaxing in a yoga class when her contractions started. 5 While they were having lunch she told him the fantastic news. 6 She injured her back while she was playing tennis. 7 I was doing some shopping when I started to feel faint. 8 When we last talked to him, he was feeling much happier.

2 These are situations give students some freedom to combine the Past Continuous and Past Simple in one reply. Ask students to answer the questions 1-6 themselves and to make notes of their answers. Monitor carefully to check that students are using the Past Continuous and Past Simple correctly.

3 This exercise gives students a chance to practise their fluency. Monitor discreetly and make a note of any errors. During feedback at the end, write the errors on the board and encourage students to correct them.