

Total English

Intermediate

Describing meaningful events

- 1 Read the following passage and complete the gaps using the correct tense of the verb in brackets.

I remember very clearly the day that my youngest brother was born. I (1) _____ (be) eight at the time and I (2) _____ (look) forward to helping my mum with the new baby. It (3) _____ (snow) very heavily when my mum (4) _____ (leave) for the hospital. We (5) _____ (stay) at home with our grandmother, and had great fun playing in the snow outside. We (6) _____ (make) a snowman, and (7) _____ (call) it baby! Our grandmother (8) _____ (cook) us some homemade soup while we (9) _____ (tidy) the house ready for the new baby. We (10) _____ (have) a bath when the phone (11) _____ (ring) with the news of the baby. He (12) _____ (be) a beautiful baby boy called Cameron, and he (13) _____ (cry) loudly at that moment! Whilst my grandmother (14) _____ (read) us our bedtime story, I (15) _____ (keep) interrupting her to ask questions about the new baby!

- 2 Ask your partner the following questions. Make sure the Past Simple and Past Continuous is used in the replies.
- 1 What is the funniest thing you remember happening to you at school or work?
 - 2 What has been your best sporting moment?
 - 3 What was the best result you got at school? How did you feel? Did you celebrate?
 - 4 Has there been a moment when you were very proud of a family member?
 - 5 What's the best holiday you've been on? Why, what happened?
 - 6 What was your first job? Do you have good or bad memories?

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TEACHER'S NOTES:

Aim: to provide further practice of Past Simple and Past Continuous tenses as well as describing important events from your life. This worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 2.3.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials: photocopies of the worksheets for each student

- 1 Students read the passage which records an important event in the writer's life. They then fill in the appropriate tense, using either the Past Simple or the Past Continuous and compare answers with their partner. Elicit answers from the class.

Answers: 1 was 2 was looking 3 was snowing 4 left 5 stayed 6 made 7 called 8 cooked 9 tidied 10 were having 11 rang 12 was 13 was crying 14 was reading 15 kept

- 2 Give students time to read through the questions and make notes as to what their own answers will be. Encourage them to choose verbs they'll use and the correct tense too. This is a freer speaking activity giving students a chance to utilise the past simple and past continuous tenses. Monitor the activity to check everyone is on the right lines and then ask for feedback on any interesting answers at the end of the activity. As an optional extra, students can write up their answers to the questions for homework.

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