

Structures

I **was driving** to work **when** I heard the news on the radio.
When I **was driving to work**, I heard the news on the radio.

We **were** sitting in the park **when** the rain started.
When the rain started, we **were** sitting in the park.

We can also use **while** instead of when before was/were ...ing.
I heard the news on the radio **when** I **was driving to work**.
or I heard the news on the radio **while** I **was driving to work**.

Reading 4.3

FLASHBULB MEMORIES

*"I remember what I was doing
when I heard the news"*

If you think about the link between flashbulbs and the news, you immediately think of newspaper reporters' cameras. However, there's another connection. In 1977, psychologists Roger Brown and James Kulik published a study about something they called "flashbulb memory". The study found that people often recall, in great detail, what they were doing when they heard a momentous news story. In general, memories of moments in the past are less vivid. Over time, people usually forget the details. But with flashbulb memories, even if a person doesn't normally have a good memory, their recollections of the event are extremely clear and remain memorable for many years.

The kinds of details we remember in flashbulb memories are: where we were when we heard the news, what we were doing at the time, who broke the news, and how we felt after we heard it.



4.3 Follow-up

Answer these questions about the article in Reading 4.3.

- 1 Who invented the expression "flashbulb memory"?
- 2 What is a flashbulb memory?
- 3 How long do flashbulb memories last?
- 4 What kinds of things do people remember in flashbulb memories?

Practice Exercise 1

Audio link: <https://www.inlingua.com/audios>

4.3 Listening (Track 15)



Part A Listen to Nancy Benn, who remembers hearing the news of John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963. Compare what she says with the four characteristics below. Is her memory a "flashbulb memory"? Explain why / why not.

The kinds of details we remember in flashbulb memories are: where **we were when** we heard the news, **what we were doing** at the time, **who broke the news**, and **how we felt** after we heard it.

Part B Now complete these extracts from the interview with Nancy Benn.

- 1 "I can remember what I _____ (do) when I _____ (find out) about it."
- 2 "And I remember, I _____ (find out) while I _____ (go) to work."
- 3 "I _____ (arrive) at the station, and two old women, who _____ (wait) for the same train, _____ (talk) about it."
- 4 "They _____ (sit) on a bench, on my left."
- 5 "And I _____ (stand) next to them, and my back _____ (be) against a wall."

CHECK

RESET



Practice Exercise 2

Use the correct forms to complete each sentence with **when** or **while**. Sometimes **when** and **while** are both possible, and sometimes only **when** is possible.

- 1 I (see) an eagle / I (walk) in the mountains

- 2 We (wait) at the bus stop / the President's car (drive) by

- 3 The lights suddenly (go) off / we (have) dinner

- 4 I (take) a shower / the water heater (stop)

- 5 I (burn) my finger on the oven / I (cook) dinner

Practice Exercise 3

Part A

Part A Put the four paragraphs below in the correct sequence.

□ → □ → □ → □

Pilot's lucky escape

(A)

A few days later, while the men **rowed / were rowing** through the Irish Sea near the coast of Ireland, they **got / were getting** the shock of their lives. Suddenly, a small plane **crashed / was crashing** into the water near their boat.

(B)

Fortunately, a rescue helicopter was already in the air. It **returned / was returning** from a training exercise when it **received / was receiving** the emergency call. A few minutes later, the helicopter was above the crashed aircraft and its crew immediately **picked up / was picking up** the pilot and flew him back to land.

(D)

Luckily the pilot wasn't hurt, and immediately **climbed / was climbing** from the cockpit onto one of the wings. However, it was clear that the plane **sank / was sinking**, so urgent action was needed before the aircraft **disappeared / was disappearing** underwater. The rowers **threw / were throwing** a rope to the pilot and quickly **phoned / were phoning** for help.

(C)

In August 2009, four men **left / were leaving** the UK coast in a rowing boat. Their objective was to break the 25-day record for the quickest rowing trip around the coast of Britain.

Part B: Select the correct option in the bolded words in each paragraph

Part C

Part C Are the sentences below true or false?

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 The men in the boat wanted to row from Britain to Ireland. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2 After the plane crashed, the pilot swam to the rowing boat. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3 The rescue helicopter took off after it received the emergency call. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4 The helicopter reached the crashed plane quite quickly. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5 The pilot of the small plane returned to the coast on the helicopter. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

Part D Write full sentences about the incident described in the article.

- 1 The plane / crash / while the men / row

- 2 When the pilot / leave / the cockpit, the plane / fill / with water

- 3 One of the men / phone / for help while the others / row / toward the plane

- 4 When the helicopter crew / arrive / the pilot of the plane / stand / on the wing

ANSWERS

Follow up 4.2

1. Roger Brown and James Kulik invented the expression 'flashback memories'
2. In a flashbulb memory people recall, in great detail, what they were doing when they heard important news.
3. They last for many years.
4. People remember where they were when they heard the news, what they were doing at the time, who broke the news, and how they felt after they heard it.

Practice Exercise 1 – Part B

Part B Now complete these extracts from the interview with Nancy Benn

- 1 "I can remember what I **was doing** (do) when I **found out** (find out) about it."
- 2 "And I remember, I **found out** (find out) while I **was going** (go) to work."
- 3 "I **arrived** (arrive) at the station, and two old women, who **were waiting** (wait) for the same train, **were talking** (talk) about it."
- 4 "They **were sitting** (sit) on a bench, on my left."
- 5 "And I **was standing** (stand) next to them, and my back **Was** (be) against a wall."



Practice Exercise 2

1. I saw an eagle when/ while I was walking in the mountains
2. We were waiting at the bus stop when the president's car drove by
3. The lights suddenly went off when/while we were having dinner
4. I was taking a shower when the water heater stopped
5. I burnt my finger on the oven when/ while I was cooking dinner

Practice Exercise 3

Part A

C → A → D → B

Part B

1. A: Were Rowing, Got, Crashed
2. B: Was Returning, Received, Picked Up
3. C: Left
4. D: Climbed, Was Sinking, Disappeared, Threw, Phoned

Part C

1. F
2. F
3. F
4. T
5. T

Part D

1. The plane crashed while the men were rowing.
2. When the pilot left the cockpit, the plane was filling with water
3. One of the men found for help while the others were rowing towards the plane
4. When the helicopter crew arrived, the pilot of the plane was standing on the wing.