

# And suddenly ... Intonation in storytelling

A

D7a

In storytelling, we often use the past continuous tense for background information and the past simple for main events, and we often use different intonation patterns with these two tenses. Listen and notice the different intonation in the first and second half of each sentence.

- 1 I was walking along the **street** one day, and I saw a **wallet** on the **pavement**.
- 2 I was waiting for the **bus** yesterday, and I heard an **explosion**.
- 3 I was lying in **bed** last night, and I heard a knock at the **door**.
- 4 I was watching the **news** one night, and I saw **myself** in the **shopping** centre.

D7b

Listen and repeat.

**street** one day – along the **street** one day – I was walking along the **street** one day  
**bus** yesterday – waiting for the **bus** yesterday – I was waiting for the **bus** yesterday  
**bed** last night – lying in **bed** last night – I was lying in **bed** last night  
**news** one night – watching the **news** one night – I was watching the **news** one night  
 a **wallet** – a **wallet** on the pavement – and I saw a **wallet** on the **pavement**  
**plosion** – an **explosion** – and I heard an **explosion**  
 the **door** – a knock at the **door** – and I heard a knock at the **door**  
**myself** in the **shopping** centre – and I saw **myself** in the **shopping** centre

D7c

Listen and speak together with the recording.

- 1 I was walking along the **street** one day, and I saw a **wallet** on the **pavement**.
- 2 I was waiting for the **bus** yesterday, and I heard an **explosion**.
- 3 I was lying in **bed** last night, and I heard a knock at the **door**.
- 4 I was watching the **news** one night, and I saw **myself** in the **shopping** centre.

B

D8a

We also often use the ✓ type of intonation with other kinds of background information. Listen and repeat.

on **Tuesday**, I think  
 as **usual**  
 and **suddenly**  
 round about **midnight**

D8b

Listen and repeat. Then speak together with the recording.

- 1 I was walking along the **street** one day, on **Tuesday**, I think, and I saw a **wallet** on the **pavement**.
- 2 I was waiting for the **bus** yesterday, as **usual**, and **suddenly** I heard an **explosion**.
- 3 I was lying in **bed** last night, round about **midnight**, and I heard a knock at the **door**.
- 4 I was watching the **news** one night, and **suddenly** I saw **myself** in the **shopping** centre.



## Exercises

### 45.1 Listen and notice the intonation.

D9

I was doing my **shopping** one day, as **usual**, and I was walking past the **antique** shop, and I saw a beautiful old **vase** in the window, with red and blue and yellow **flowers** on it. And I stood there **looking** at this vase and thinking I'd really like to **buy** it, and I went **in** and **looked** at it and asked about the **price**, but of course it was much too **expensive**. And I did the rest of my **shopping** and went back **home**. And a few days **later** I walked past the same **shop** and noticed that the vase wasn't **there**, and I thought that was the **end** of it. **Anyway**, a couple of weeks **later** it was my **birthday** and I had a little **party** for a few of my **friends**, and they arrived with a huge **parcel** and said, 'Happy **birthday**! We've got a really special **present** for you!' So I **opened** it and guess **what**, it was the **vase** from the **antique** shop!

### 45.2 Listen and repeat.

D10

I was doing my **shopping** one day, as **usual**, and I was walking past the **antique** shop, and I saw a beautiful old **vase** in the window, with red and blue and yellow **flowers** on it. And I stood there **looking** at this vase and thinking I'd really like to **buy** it, and I went **in** and **looked** at it and asked about the **price**, but of course it was much too **expensive**. And I did the rest of my **shopping** and went back **home**. And a few days **later** I walked past the same **shop** and noticed that the vase wasn't **there**, and I thought that was the **end** of it. **Anyway**, a couple of weeks **later** it was my **birthday** and I had a little **party** for a few of my **friends**, and they arrived with a huge **parcel** and said, 'Happy **birthday**! We've got a really special **present** for you!' So I **opened** it and guess **what**, it was the **vase** from the **antique** shop!



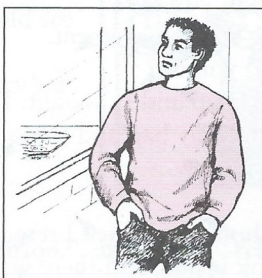
As usual



I'd really like to buy it.



Much too expensive



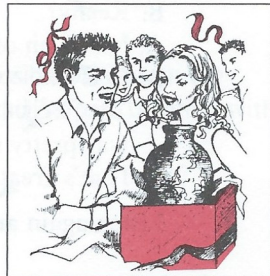
A few days later



A couple of weeks later



Happy Birthday!



Don't look at Exercises 45.1 or 45.2. Tell the story with the help of the pictures. (It doesn't have to be exactly the same story!)