

Vocabulary | measurements

1 Write these numbers in words

- fifty six point six 1 56.6 kilometres per hour
 nought point nought two 2 0.068 seconds *sixty eight*
 two and three 3 2 3/4 hours *quarters*
 one hundred and 4 1,565 metres *five hundred sixty*
 thirty 5 63 1/2 minutes *& a half*
 sixty three 7 3,655 centimetres *six hundred*
 three thousand 8 85 1/4 kilograms *fifty five*
 eighty five 9 1 1/2 days *half days*
 one and 10 9.96 seconds *ninety nine*
 nine point

Grammar | Past Continuous and Past Simple

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets using Past Simple or Past Continuous.

- 1 I was (walk) past the shop when the alarm went (go) off.
 2 He hurt (hurt) his leg while he was (play) rugby for his school.
 3 While she was (work) at the hospital I got (get) a job at the local school.
 4 She met (meet) her boyfriend while she was (study) in Italy.
 5 I saw (see) her last night when she was (dance) at the club.
 6 He hurt (hurt) his back when he was (play) with his children.
 7 While I was (read) the paper he tried (try) to steal my telephone.
 8 He woke (get up) and made (make) some coffee.

3 Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets using Past Simple or Past Continuous.

Where were you when ... ?



Dionne Grobler

I (1) was (watch) TV when I (2) heard (hear) about the astronauts landing on the Moon. It (3) was (be) an amazing moment for the whole world. In those days many people (4) didn't (not have) a TV. I (5) called (call) my neighbours on the phone and they said they (6) were (listen) to it on the radio so I (7) invited (invite) them to my house and we watched it on TV together.



Marsha Vygotsky

I heard the news when I (8) was (sit) at the table eating my breakfast. I (9) was (be) a musician then, in a band. The Beatles (10) were (not be) our heroes, but we loved John Lennon. We heard the newsreader say, 'John Lennon was killed while he (11) was (walk) home in New York,' and we just (12) didn't (not know) what to say.



Billy Fingleman

I (13) was (study) for my Masters in Politics at the time. In fact, I (14) was (read) a book in the university library when I (15) heard (hear) all this noise outside. Someone said the Berlin Wall was coming down and we all (16) went (go) to the square and celebrated. The party (17) didn't (not finish) until 6:00 a.m.

4 Choose the correct alternative.

A strange thing (1) was happening/happened last summer. One night I (2) was lying/lay in bed. It was a stormy night and the wind (3) was blowing/blew very hard. I (4) was trying/tried to get to sleep when I (5) was hearing/heard a noise on the roof. To begin with, I (6) was thinking/thought it was the wind, but after a while the noise got louder, so I (7) was deciding/decided to see what it was. I (8) was climbing/climbed onto the roof and saw that my cat (9) was fighting/fought a bird. The cat (10) was trying/tried to catch the bird but the bird (11) was flying/flew a little higher than the cat and the cat couldn't catch it. When the bird (12) was seeing/saw me it (13) was flying/flew off. I (14) was going/went back to bed and went to sleep.

Pronunciation | *was/were*

5 a 26 Cover the audioscript. Listen and complete the sentences.

- 1 _____ it raining? _____, it _____.
- 2 _____ you dreaming? _____, I _____.
- 3 _____ they playing? _____, they _____.
- 4 _____ you running? _____, we _____.
- 5 _____ he singing? _____, he _____.

b Listen again and mark the stress. Check your answers with the tapescript.

AUDIOSCRIPT

- 1 Was it raining? No, it wasn't.
- 2 Were you dreaming? Yes, I was.
- 3 Were they playing? No they weren't.
- 4 Were you running? Yes, we were.
- 5 Was he singing? No, he wasn't.

Reading

6 Read the text and mark the sentences (1–6) true (T) or false (F). *in 2000*

- 1 Eric swam in the 2002 Olympic Games in Sydney. *F*
- 2 The winner of the 100-metre race swam the distance in less than a minute. *T, 47 sec*
- 3 Eric swam the minimum time before the Olympic Games. *F*
- 4 Eric trained in a 50-metre pool before the Olympic Games. *F, in a 20-m*
- 5 Everyone in Equatorial Guinea thinks that Eric is hero. *F*
- 6 Eric had to train in the sea after the Olympic Games. *T*

The Slowest Swimmer in Sydney

Olympic swimmers are normally fast, very fast – but this is not always true. In 2000 Eric Mussambani represented Equatorial Guinea in the Olympic Games in Sydney. He swam in the 100 metres freestyle event. His time? One minute fifty-two seconds. The winner of the final, Pieter van den Hoogenband swam the distance in forty-seven seconds, a difference of more than a minute! But how did such a slow swimmer enter the swimming competition in the Olympic Games?

Normally swimmers have to swim a minimum time before entering the competition. However, some swimmers were allowed to compete without swimming the minimum time and Eric was one of those swimmers. He even found it difficult to complete the 100 metre race in the 50-metre Olympic pool. 'The last 20 metres was very hard,' he said. 'I didn't think I was going to be able to finish. I had never seen a 50-metre pool before. All my training was in the only pool in my country which is in a hotel. It's 20 metres long.'

For some people Eric is a hero because he shows that winning isn't the only important thing in sport. But for many people in his country he is definitely not a hero. A lot of Guineans think that he has made the country look stupid by competing so badly. 'When I got off the plane, the only people to meet me at the airport were my parents. Some people in my country are rude to me. I don't understand it. I can't even train in the hotel any more. They won't let me swim there. I have to train in the sea.'

