

## Narrative tenses: Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect

### 1. Match the sentences with the correct uses of Past Continuous.

#### SAMPLE SENTENCES:

- 1) I **was washing** the dishes when my mom called.
- 2) When I was a kid, we **were living** in Berlin.
- 3) What **were you doing** at 8pm yesterday?
- 4) While I **was playing** computer games, my girlfriend **was reading** a book.
- 5) It was a nice day and the sun **was shining**. We **were sitting** in our garden.



#### USES OF PAST CONTINUOUS:

- a) Describing a scene in a story
- b) Describing two actions happening at the same time in the past
- c) Describing a past action in progress interrupted by another event
- d) Describing an action in progress at a specific time in the past
- e) Describing temporary situations in the past

### 2. Now, write 5 sentences representing different uses of Past Continuous from the previous exercise. Each sentence should include two verbs from the box below.

Example: When I was driving to work, my boss called to tell me some good news.

|       |      |      |      |        |          |
|-------|------|------|------|--------|----------|
| drive | walk | read | wash | sit    | look for |
| eat   | hear | buy  | find | decide | see      |
| sing  | ride | rain | fall | watch  | meet     |

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### 3. Look at the sentences below and decide which action happened first.

EXAMPLE:

*I didn't pass my exam because I hadn't studied at all.*



2<sup>nd</sup> action



1<sup>st</sup> action

- When I came back home, I realized that my car had been stolen.
- We hadn't booked the table, so we had to stand in a long queue waiting for a table.
- When I got to work, the meeting had already finished.
- I missed my train because I had overslept.
- I left home, got into the car, and drove to work.
- We hadn't done the shopping, so we ordered a pizza.

### 4. Studying the sentences from the previous exercise, choose correct options in the rules below.

- We use Past Perfect to show which action happened *first/second*
- We use *Past Simple/Past Perfect* when actions happen immediately after each other
- We use *Past Simple/Past Perfect* to give a reason for some event

### 5. Using Past Simple and Past Perfect, come up with sentences with the words given below.

realize

so

because

when

already

### 6. Complete the story below using Past Simple, Past Continuous and Past Perfect, and the verbs in brackets.

It was a nice day and the sun ..... (shine). I  
..... (watch) the news when my dog got up and  
went to the door. Time for a walk. I ..... (put) on my



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jacket, ..... (take) my phone and ..... (leave) home. We went to the park. While my dog ..... (run) around, I ..... (talk) on the phone with a friend. After some time, I got hungry so I went to a nearby food truck and ordered a hotdog. When it was ready, I wanted to pay but I realized that I ..... (not take) my wallet. I was quite embarrassed and the guy from the food truck wanted his money. I told him I didn't have my wallet with me and I'd be back in 15 minutes with his money. He agreed but asked me to leave something as a guarantee. I decided to leave him my watch. I got home, took some money, and went back to pay for my hotdog. When I ..... (get) there, the food truck ..... (already leave) together with my watch.

- 7. Work in pairs or groups. Come up with a story together. The first person builds a few sentences connected with first two images. The next person continues the story by building more sentences based on two next images.**

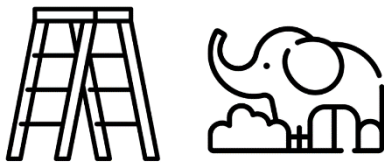
1.



4.



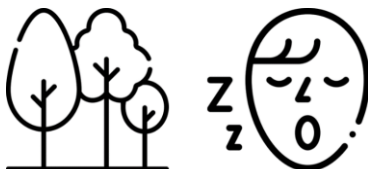
2.



5.



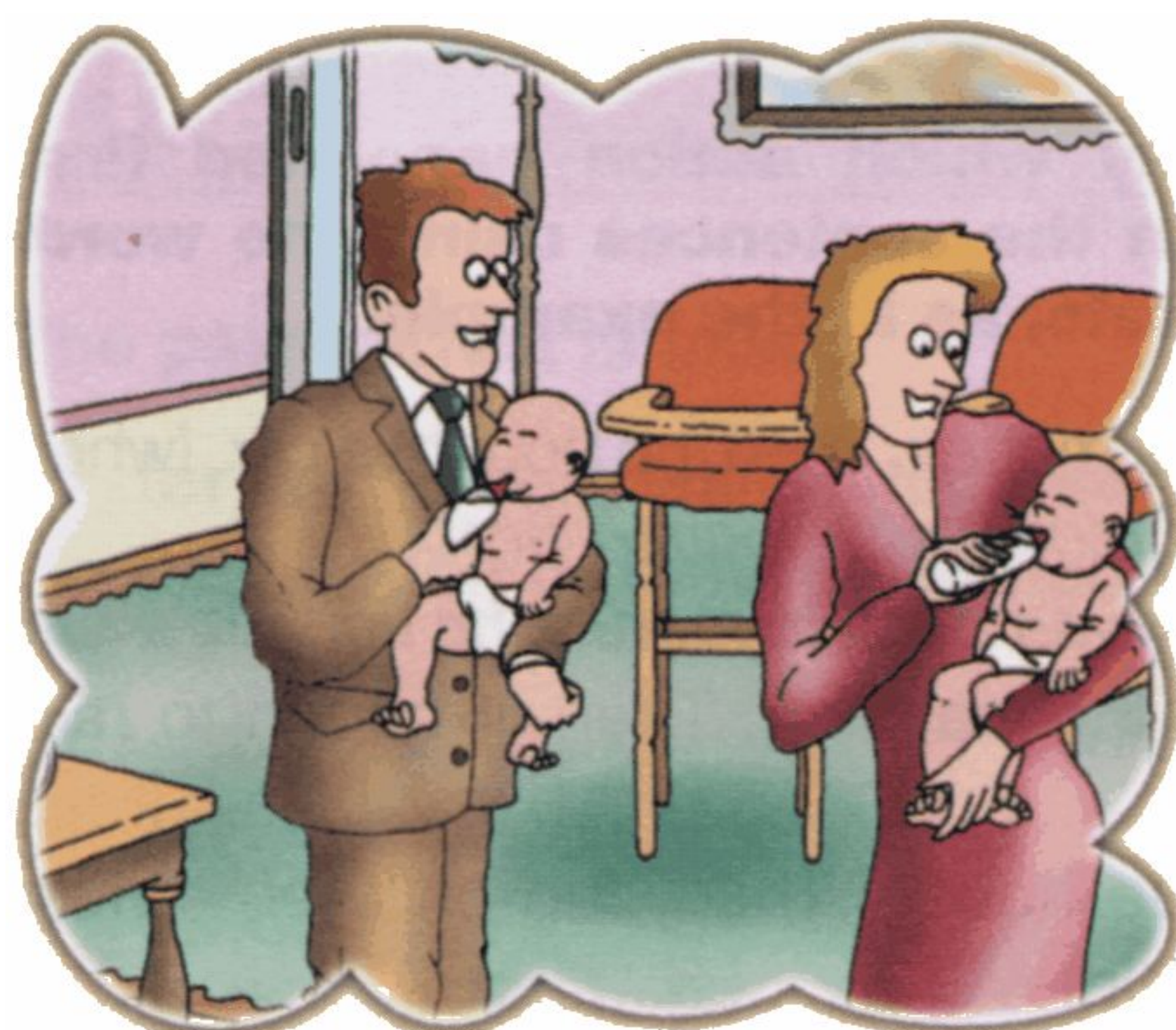
3.





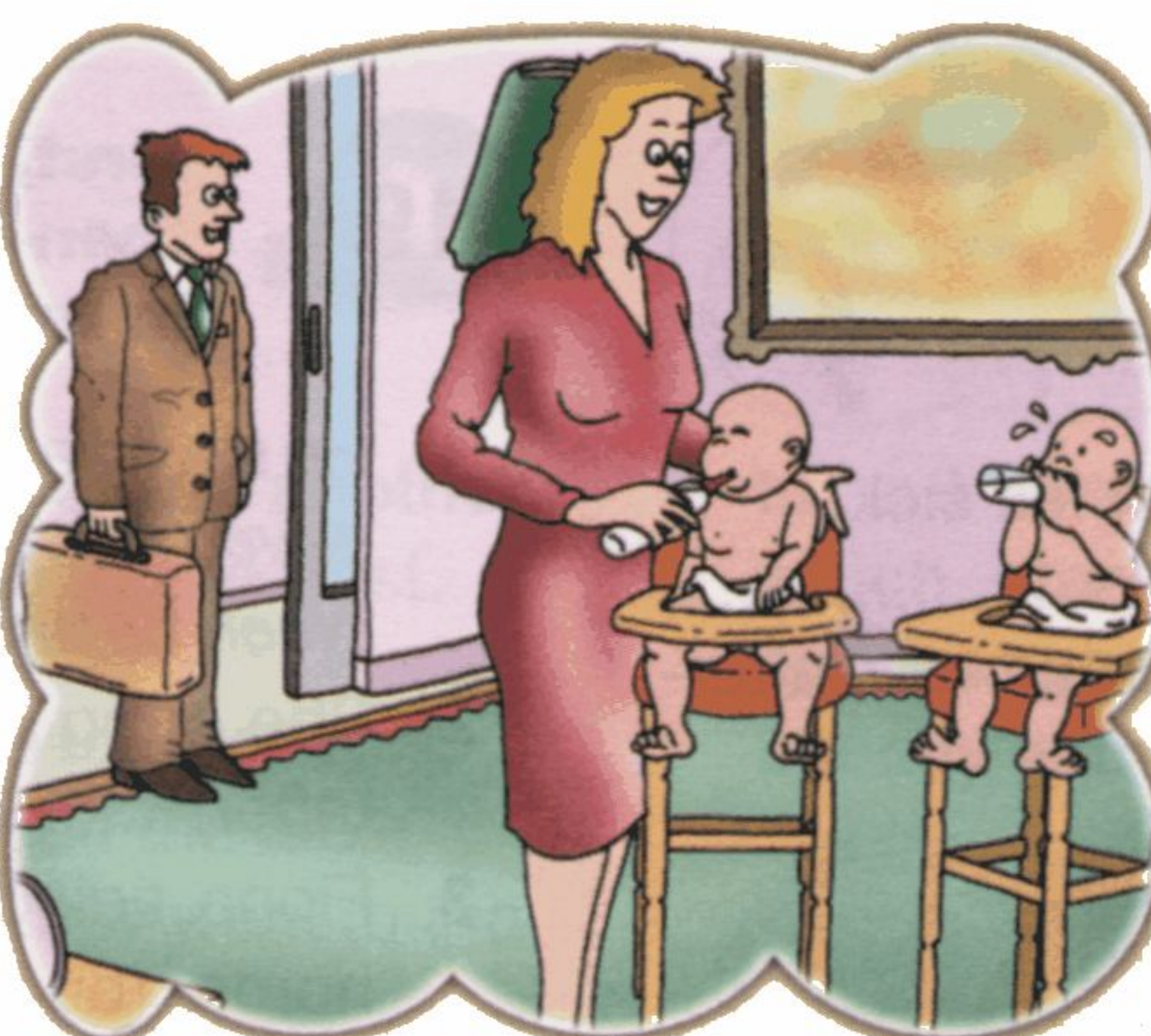
### Past Simple - Past Continuous - Past Perfect

- ◆ The **past simple** is used for actions which happened immediately one after the other in the past.



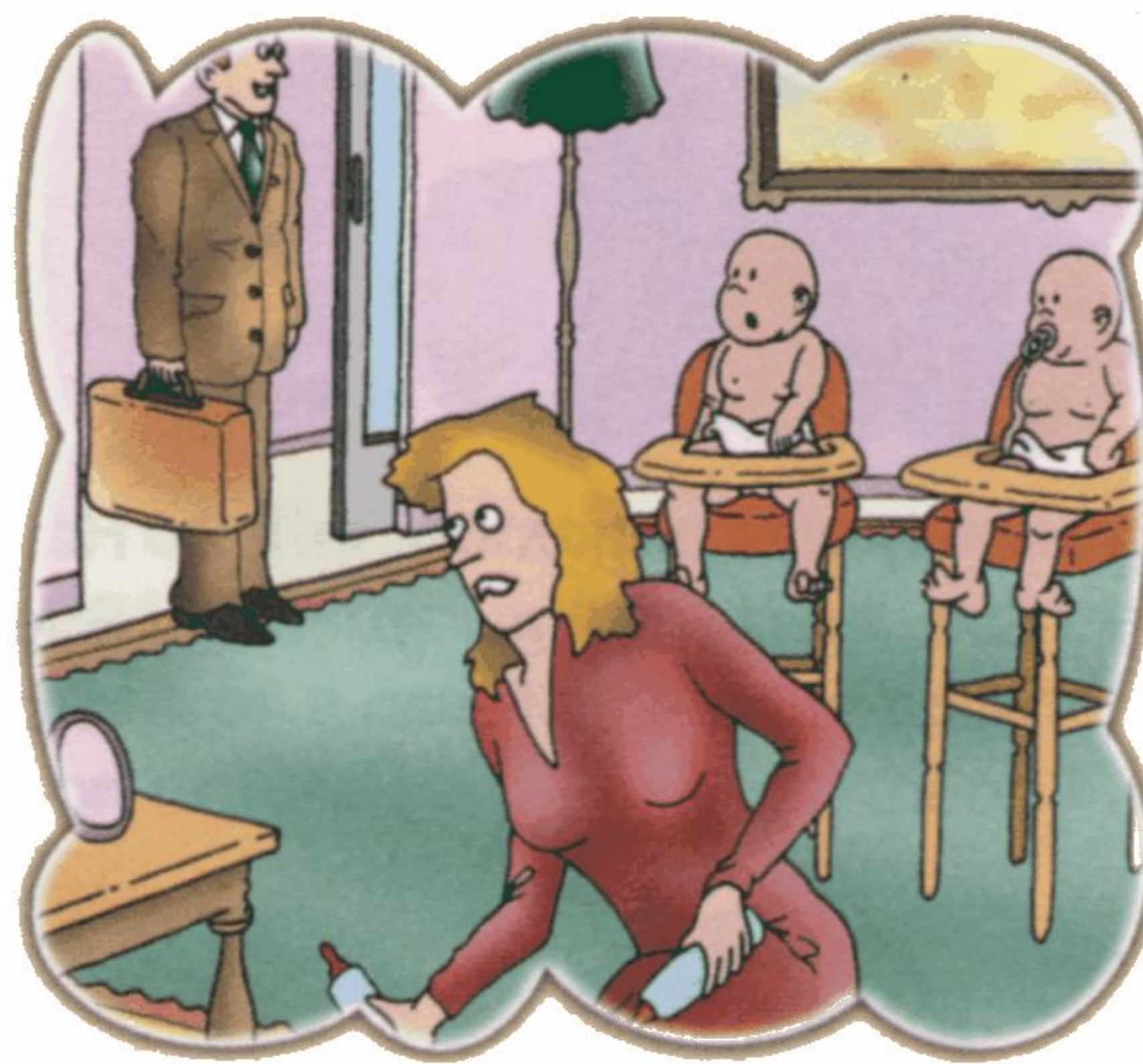
Last Monday, Lisa and her husband **fed** the children when he came home. (Her husband came home and then they fed the children together.)

- ◆ The **past continuous** is used for a past action which was in progress when another action interrupted it.



Last Tuesday, Lisa **was feeding** the children when her husband came home. (She was still feeding the children when her husband came home.)

- ◆ The **past perfect** is used for an action which happened before another past action.



Last Friday, Lisa **had already fed** the children when her husband came home. (She fed the children first. Her husband came home afterwards.)

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- 1 A: Why was Tim so tired last night?  
B: Oh, he ...**had been working**... (work) hard all day.
- 2 A: I ..... (go) to the cinema last night.  
B: Really? What ..... (you/see)?
- 3 A: Did you have enough to eat at the party?  
B: Yes. Sarah ..... (make) a lot of food.
- 4 A: What ..... (you/do) at eight o'clock last night?  
B: I ..... (watch) television. Why?
- 5 A: Colin! Look at yourself! You are filthy!  
B: I know. I ..... (repair) my motorbike.
- 6 A: I ..... (do) something really silly yesterday.  
B: Really, what?  
A: I ..... (get) up and ..... (set off) for work as usual. I ..... (drive) for an hour before I ..... (realise) it was Sunday.
- 7 A: I ..... (just/hear) some incredible news!  
B: What?  
A: Jason and Emily ..... (get) married last week in Las Vegas. Isn't that amazing?

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- A: What 1) ...**were you doing**... (do) when I 2) ..... (call) at eight, Burt?
- B: I 3) ..... (work) in the garden because the wind 4) ..... (blow down) the fence during the night.
- A: Oh, 5) ..... (you/manage) to fix it?
- B: Yes, I 6) ..... (do) it eventually, but it 7) ..... (be) very hard work. I 8) ..... (ask) my neighbour to help in the end. Why 9) ..... (you/call) me?
- A: I 10) ..... (want) to tell you about the factory. It 11) ..... (close down) yesterday.
- B: I know. The company 12) ..... (have) problems for a long time before they finally 13) ..... (decide) to close down the factory.
- A: I 14) ..... (hope) they would change their minds about it, though. It 15) ..... (be) a part of the town for years.
- B: Well, at least everyone who worked there 16) ..... (now/find) a new job. That's good news.



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Underline the correct tense.

- 1 I saw Jim this morning. He ran/was running for the bus.
- 2 Keri was angry. She had been waiting/was waiting for Sarah for two hours.
- 3 Andy was relieved to hear that he was passing/had passed the exam.
- 4 I was walking/had walked home when I saw Paul.
- 5 Brian learnt/had learnt how to spell his name at school today.
- 6 They hadn't visited/weren't visiting their grandparents for a long time.
- 7 I watched/was watching television when the telephone rang.
- 8 Jason had been thinking/had thought about his new car all day.
- 9 I bought the dress because I wanted/had wanted something special to wear to the party.
- 10 The little boy was crying because he had lost/was losing his mother.
- 11 Graham had been working/was working for the company for twenty years before he retired.
- 12 Pam opened/had opened the present and read the card.
- 13 Lucy wrote/had written a letter to her sister last night.
- 14 It had been raining/was raining all day and the roads were very wet.
- 15 Sue was smiling/had smiled as she was reading Mary's letter.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct past tense.

- 1 They ...were walking... (walk) in the park when the storm broke.
- 2 The man ..... (pay) for his new car in cash.
- 3 I ..... (already/eat) breakfast by the time the others woke up.
- 4 It ..... (snow) for three days when suddenly the sun came out.
- 5 Sam ..... (work) here for six years before he left to go to university.
- 6 Liz ..... (go) to the Bahamas for her holidays last year.
- 7 We ..... (watch) a film on TV when our guests arrived.
- 8 They ..... (already/see) the film twice at the cinema when she rented it on video.
- 9 The teacher ..... (teach) the children a song yesterday.
- 10 He ..... (sit) on the train at this time yesterday morning.

## IN OTHER WORDS

Study these examples. The second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- 1 When did they buy their tickets?  
**since** How long is it **since they bought** their tickets?  
**ago** How long **ago did they buy** their tickets?
- 2 She didn't begin cleaning until after all the guests had left.  
**before** She waited until all the guests **had left before she began** cleaning.
- 3 We haven't seen Carol for two weeks.  
**time** The last **time we saw** Carol was two weeks ago.
- 4 It's a long time since I ate out.  
**have** I **have not eaten** out for a long time.
- 5 It was the first time they had flown by Concorde.  
**never** They **had never flown** by Concorde before.

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Complete each sentence with two to five words, including the word in bold.

- 1 Jack hasn't travelled abroad for years.  
**time** The last ...time Jack travelled... abroad was years ago.
- 2 When did Monica get married?  
**since** How long is it ..... married?
- 3 It was the first time she had visited the National Gallery.  
**never** She ..... the National Gallery before.
- 4 Jessica didn't start cooking until after the children had fallen asleep.  
**before** Jessica waited until the children ..... started cooking.
- 5 The last time I went to the theatre was months ago.  
**have** I ..... the theatre for months.
- 6 It's two months since she called me.  
**has** She ..... me for two months.
- 7 The president waited until all the reporters had arrived before he made his statement.  
**making** The president didn't ..... statement until all the reporters had arrived.
- 8 We haven't played chess for a month.  
**since** It's a month ..... chess.
- 9 She waited until Tom had left before she began packing.  
**after** She didn't begin packing ..... left.