

Lesson 5

Simple Past & Past Continuous

Writing a Paragraph/Story

 Material planned and prepared by
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Activity 1: Writing questions

The past continuous is formed with was or were followed by the ing form of the verb. The past continuous shows an action that was happening for a limited period in the past.

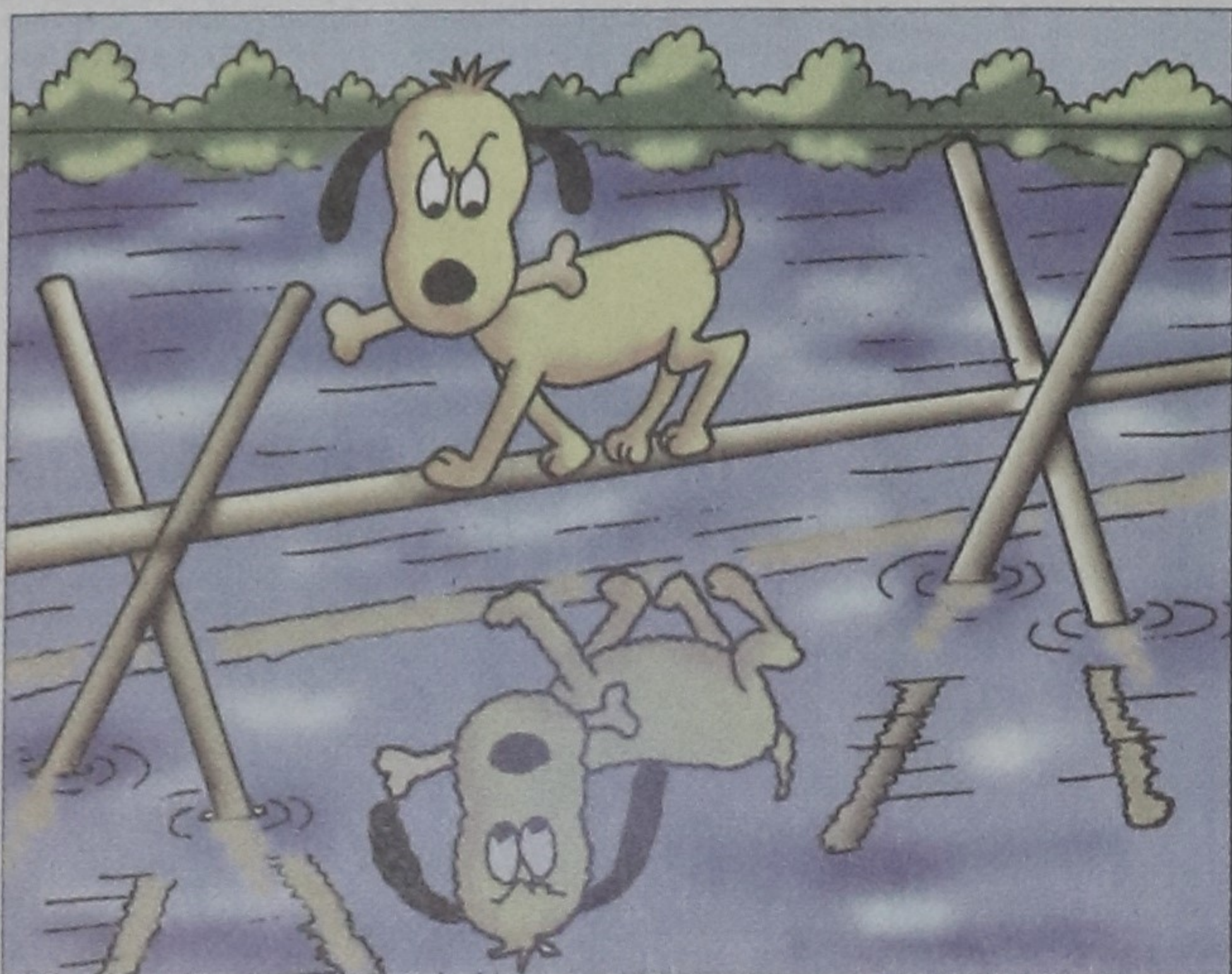
Write down the question for the following answers.

1. _____?
I was talking on the phone.
2. _____?
I was talking with my friend.
3. _____?
Before that? Well, I don't remember what I was doing before that.
4. _____?

Yesterday at this time? I was studying at the library.

5. _____?
Of course, I'm sure that I was not having tea with my friends at the canteen at this time yesterday. But why are you asking me all these questions?
6. _____?
Well, I last saw Kalam as I was coming out of the library. He was just getting in.

Activity 3: Rearranging sentences



The following sentences are taken from a Fable called *The Dog and the Reflection*. The sentences are not in order. Put them in order.

- i) As he crossed the stream, he looked down and saw his own image reflected in the water.
- ii) It happened that a dog had a big piece of meat and was carrying it home in his mouth to eat.
- iii) Thinking it was another dog with

another piece of meat, he decided to get the meat.

- iv) Now, on his way home, he had to cross a log lying across a stream.
- v) So, he tried to bite at the reflection in the water.
- vi) It was never seen again.
- vii) But, as he opened his mouth, his piece of meat fell out and dropped into the water.

Activity 6: Choosing the right form of verbs

Do you know what a Fable is. It's a brief story that teaches the reader a lesson. This lesson is called a *moral*.

Fill in the blanks in the following fable with the right form of a verb from the box.

lash grow fall boast stand lie

The Oak and the Reed

There was once a mighty oak tree that grew at the edge of a wood. At the foot of this giant tree (1) _____ a thin reed. With every breeze the reed would bend swaying and sighing.

The oak tree looked down upon the thin reed and laughed.

"Look at me," (2) _____ the oak. "See how strong I am. The wind may blow his hardest, but I will never bend."

Now one day there was a terrible storm. It (3) _____ at the oak tree, stiff

and straight, and bent the reed.

Harder and still harder blew the wind, but the oak tree would not bend. Then, suddenly, with a great cracking and splitting the oak tree (4) _____ over and (5) _____ uprooted on the ground.

When the wind died down, the little reed (6) _____ upright, as before. Sadly it looked down upon the fallen giant.

"Strength is not everything. It is a good thing to be able to bend when one has to," said the reed.



Activity 2: Writing a paragraph

Read the following paragraph

I have just been to the inter-district bus station to see a friend off. There were a lot of people there. A long line had formed at the ticket counter. A woman standing on the line was holding a child tightly by its hand so that he couldn't run off. A group of young people was talking loudly and drinking tea in front of a tea stall. A family with an old man and an infant was trying to find a quiet place to settle down. Others were sitting in some chairs in the small station lounge waiting for their buses. I saw one man who was trying to carry three heavy suitcases. My friend and I stood at a

corner talking and watching the crowd around. It was soon time for my friend's bus to leave. He picked up his suitcase and we said good bye to each other.

Suppose you have just been to one of the following places listed below. Describe what was happening around you. What were other people doing? What did you do there? You can take hints from the paragraph you've just read.

- i) A Restaurant
- ii) A Folk Festival
- iii) A Hospital

Activity 4: Vocabulary practice

Fill in each blank with the right word from the list in **Vocabulary: Problem verbs** to complete each sentence below.

Yesterday the whole afternoon I 1 in bed and did nothing. At around seven I got up and 2 a fresh tablecloth on the dining table, and 3 two plates and two glasses neatly on it. Then I took the biriyani dish out of the fridge and 4 it on

the oven to heat. I then 5 the jug of *borhani* at the centre of the table. Before I went and 6 down to watch the TV, I 7 the main door open. I was waiting eagerly for my friend to come. All the while, Tiki, my cat, 8 fast asleep on a cushion.

Presentation 1

Poem

I loved my friend.
He went away from me.
There's nothing more to say.
The poem ends,
Soft as it began
I loved my friend.

-Langston Hughes



Activity 5: Writing a story

Read the poem in **Presentation-1**. Now look at the picture carefully. Does the boy look happy? What do you think he is thinking about? Who do you think was his friend?

Take the first line of the poem as the beginning of a story, and the second line as the end. Now write sentences to fill up the middle to make a short story. Some tips are given below to help you.

Hints: am talking aboutcat

/met him by accident...../ one day, while.....coming backschool..... heard a whimpering sound...../ a new born kitten.....abandoned and helpless.../ brought home..... named it...../ became friends...../ loved it...../ followed me everywhere.../

The boy next door.....admired it...../ gave food/soft toys...../

One day..... came back...../ was not there/anywhere...../ saw..... sneaking away to..... neighbour's... / but why...../ loved him...../

Presentation-2

I meant to do my work today—
But a brown bird sang in the apple-tree,
And a butterfly flitted across the field,
And all the leaves were calling me.

And the wind went sighing over the land,
Tossing the grasses to and fro,
And a rainbow held out its shining hand—
So what could I do but laugh and go?

--Richard LeGallienne

Vocabulary: Some Problem Verbs

Some pairs of verbs can be confusing because they look alike or are quite close in meaning. Look at the following pairs of verbs and notice the differences in the present and past forms.

- **Lie** means 'to put yourself in a horizontal position so that you are not standing or sitting.'

Example:

You look tired. Why don't you *lie* down on the sofa and close your eyes for a while? (*Present tense*)

He *lay* down on the sofa and instantly fell asleep. (*Past tense*)

- **Lay** means 'to put something down, usually gently and carefully, or, to spread something'.

Example:

You can *lay* the mat on the floor. (*Present tense*)

She *laid* the baby down gently on the mat. (*Past tense*)

- **Set** means 'to put something somewhere'.

Example:

Please *set* the sofa here. (*Present tense*)

Mother *set* the bed by the window. (*Past tense*)

- **Sit** means 'to sit down'.

Example:

Come and *sit* next to me. (*Present tense*)

She came over and *sat* beside me. (*Past tense*)

- **Let** means 'to allow'.

Example:

Let me help you with the writing. (*Present tense*)

She finally *let* him help her finish the writing. (*Past tense*)

- **Leave** means 'to go away'.

Example:

He *leaves* home at nine every morning. (*Present tense*)

But he *left* home at 7.30 today. (*Past tense*)

Activity 7: Correcting mistakes

Read the following passage. Some of the verb forms or the spellings are not correct. Identify them and write the correct forms. There are ten mistakes.

Yesterday was my birthday. I thought that nobody will remember it. But when I waked up in the morning, I found a brand new copy of Jule Verne's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* on the table next to my bed. It has a note stuck on it "For my dearest son, with love, Abbu." I springed out of bed with excitement.

As I was get dressed, I heard mother calling everyone for breakfast. I got dressed quickly and went into the dining room. My mother came towards me and says smilingly, "Happy Birthday, darling! Here! I bought this alarm clock for you..." But before she could finish what she is saying, my little sister cried out, "Bhaiya, now you won't have any excuse to be late for breakfast!"

Activity 8: Reading a poem

- a. Ask as many questions as you can on the poem in **Presentation-2**

What to do? Could he?
Why? etc.

- b. Do you know what **personification** is? It's a literary device. Poets and writers often attribute human qualities to objects or ideas making the lifeless things behave as human beings. Can you find examples of *personification* in the poem?



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