8.8 Past Continuous Tense (Year 7): 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Blackout at Riverside Market

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The stallholders were packing away the last of the strawberries when the first generator spluttered and died. Overhead, strings of fairy lights were still glowing faintly, flickering now and then like a failing heartbeat. Yusuf had been serving customers for nearly an hour when the lights above his stall suddenly went out completely, plunging his stall into darkness. Somewhere near the bridge, a busker was singing an old folk song, her guitar case scattered with coins, and for a moment nobody noticed the darkness spreading across the square. Two stallholders were arguing about whose generator had failed first when a voice on a loudspeaker asked everyone to stay calm. Meanwhile, several students were filming the chaos on their phones, more curious than afraid. By the time the emergency lighting flickered on, the market had fallen almost silent, and only the busker's guitar was still playing, quietly, into the dark.

1 Tick the sentence in each pair that is written in the past continuous tense.

(a) **(1)**

- [ ] A) The crowd cheered as the referee blew the final whistle.
- [ ] B) The crowd was cheering as the referee blew the final whistle.

(b) **(1)**

- [ ] A) Two engineers were repairing the lift when the alarm sounded.
- [ ] B) Two engineers repaired the lift when the alarm sounded.

(c) **(1)**

- [ ] A) The tide crept steadily up the beach.
- [ ] B) The tide was creeping steadily up the beach.

(d) **(1)**

- [ ] A) I was revising for my exam when my phone buzzed.
- [ ] B) I revised for my exam when my phone buzzed.

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2 Underline the past continuous verb phrase in each sentence below. Some of these subjects are trickier than the ones you may have met before, so read each sentence carefully before deciding on was or were.

(a) Everybody in the queue was grumbling about the delay. **(1)**

(b) The committee was arguing about the budget when the fire alarm rang. **(1)**

(c) Either the manager or her assistants were dealing with the complaint. **(1)**

(d) Neither of the twins was listening properly. **(1)**

(e) The students, along with their teacher, were waiting for the coach. **(1)**

3 Each sentence below has an incorrect helping verb or a missing -ing ending. Find and correct the error in each sentence, using formal Standard English.

(a) Everybody were waiting anxiously for the announcement. **(1)**

(b) The stallholders was arguing about the generator. **(1)**

(c) Neither of the students were filming the chaos. **(1)**

(d) The lights was flicker on and off. **(1)**

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Mark scheme · 8.8 Past Continuous Tense (Year 7): 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) B ticked cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **B) The crowd was cheering as the referee blew the final whistle.**

(b) A ticked cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **A) Two engineers were repairing the lift when the alarm sounded.**

(c) B ticked cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **B) The tide was creeping steadily up the beach.**

(d) A ticked cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **A) I was revising for my exam when my phone buzzed.**

Question 2

(a) was grumbling underlined cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **was grumbling**

(b) was arguing underlined cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **was arguing**

(c) were dealing underlined cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **were dealing**

(d) was listening underlined cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **was listening**

(e) were waiting underlined cao **B1**

(e) Answer: **were waiting**

Question 3

(a) Everybody was waiting anxiously for the announcement. cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **Everybody was waiting anxiously for the announcement.**

(b) The stallholders were arguing about the generator. cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **The stallholders were arguing about the generator.**

(c) Neither of the students was filming the chaos. cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **Neither of the students was filming the chaos.**

(d) The lights were flickering on and off. cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **The lights were flickering on and off.**

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