3 What's the difference? 1

Match the sentences with the pictures.

1. The students stood up when the teacher came into the room.
2. The students were standing up when the teacher came into the room.
3. 'What do you do?' 'I work in an office.'
4. 'What are you doing?' 'I'm writing a letter.'
5. It rained this morning.
6. It's been raining all morning.

a. Use the present perfect continuous for an action started earlier which is still going on, e.g. I have been waiting here since seven o'clock or for a recent action where the results can still be seen, e.g. You are wet through! You've been swimming in the river again, haven't you?

4 Past simple or past continuous?

Complete the story, using the verb in brackets either in the past simple or the past continuous tense.

This is a story about something that happened on board a cruise ship. The cruise ship (1) was going (go) from London to New York. A magician on board the cruise ship (2) do (do) magic tricks to entertain the passengers. He (3) have (have) a lot of very good tricks, and (4) be (be) able to make things disappear and reappear in a really mystifying way.

Unfortunately for him, there was a parrot in the audience who kept giving away the game. The parrot (5) (shout) things like 'It's up his sleeve!' or 'He put it in his pocket!' or 'It's in his other hand!' and in this way the parrot (6) manage (manage) to spoil all the magician's tricks.

One day, the magician (7) perform (perform) his show as usual. The ship was in a particularly dangerous part of the sea where there are icebergs. Suddenly, just as the magician (8) wave (wave) his magic wand, the ship hit an iceberg and (9) sink (sink) immediately.

The magician (10) find (find) a lifebelt, and (11) float (float) in the sea when the parrot (12) fly (fly) up and landed on his lifebelt. The parrot and the magician (13) look (look) at each other for a while in silence, then the parrot (14) say (say):

'OK, I give up. What (15) you (do) with the ship?'

Use the past continuous

- to show that one action was going on when another action occurred, e.g. Unfortunately I was looking the other way when Beckham scored the winning goal.
- to provide background description in a narrative, e.g. The crowd was going mad with excitement, people were throwing their hats in the air.
5 Past or perfect? 1

Choose between the two forms of the verb to complete the story.

This is the story of a friend of mine called Harry. Harry is a postman, and years ago he (1) **lived / has lived** in a small bedsit. The man who (2) **rented / has rented** the flat upstairs was a police officer named Charlie. Harry used to go to bed early because he (3) **has had / had to** be up early in the morning. Unfortunately, every evening Charlie (4) **would come / has come** home, take off his boots and drop them heavily on the floor. And every evening the noise of his boots hitting the floor would wake Harry in the room below.

So, one night Harry waited up for Charlie and stopped him on the stairs.

'Good evening. I wonder if I could have a word with you.'

Charlie looked at Harry.

'I'm sorry, but do I know you?' (5) **never saw / have never seen** you before.'

'I live in this flat, directly below yours.'

'Oh, OK. Well, what can I do for you?' Charlie asked.

'I don't want to complain, but I (6) **didn't have / haven't had** a good night's sleep in months.'

'What has that got to do with me?' asked the police officer.

'Well, it's your boots. Every night for the last few months, you (7) **have come / came** home and dropped your boots on the floor and the noise wakes me up.'

'Oh, sorry about that,' said Charlie. '(8) **haven't done / didn't do** it on purpose. I will put them down quietly in future, I promise.'

The next night Harry (9) **went / has gone** to bed early as usual and (10) **has just fallen / had just fallen** asleep when Charlie the policeman (11) **came / has come** home. Charlie sat down on his bed, took off his right boot and dropped it heavily on the floor. Suddenly, he (12) **remembered / has remembered** his conversation with Harry.

'Oh dear!' he thought. 'I still haven't got out of the habit of throwing my boots on the floor!'

He then (13) **has taken / took** off his other boot and put it on the floor very gently without making a sound.

The following evening Harry again (14) **waited / has waited** on the stairs for Charlie.

'Goodness!' said Charlie. 'You look terrible! (15) **Didn't you sleep / Haven't you slept** last night?'

'No, I (16) **didn't / haven't**,' said Harry. 'I spent the whole night wide awake, waiting for the other boot to drop!'