Celebrations 1

While Grandad was opening presents, Dad took a photo.

I He/She You We/They	arrived at the party. didn't arrive at the party.	I He/She	was blowing up balloons. wasn't blowing up balloons.
		You We/They	were blowing up balloons. weren't blowing up balloons.

When I **arrived** at the party, the children **were blowing** up balloons.
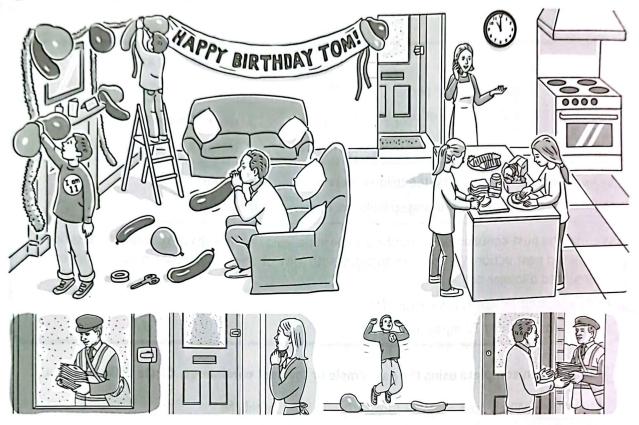**While** the children **were blowing** up balloons, I **arrived** at the party.

We use the past continuous to describe a scene in the past. We use the past simple to describe a completed past action. We use them together, with *while* or *when*, to describe a sudden action that interrupted a longer action.
I was watching TV when my mum called me.
While I was watching TV, my mum called me.

1 **Read. Then complete using the past simple or the past continuous. Circle *while* or *when*.**

1 (While)/ When John _____was playing_____ (play) football, he _____
(step) on his friend's foot.

2 I _____ (stand) at the bus stop **while / when** I _____
(see) my friend.

3 Our friends _____ (not wait) outside the station **while / when** we
_____ (get) there.

4 **While / When** Amy _____ (do) her homework, her best friend
_____ (send) her a message.

5 **While / When** we _____ (open) the door, it_____ (rain).

6 Tom _____ (watch) a film **while / when** his mum _____
(phone) him.

1 Mum was making a cake.

2 Look at the pictures and read. Underline the five mistakes.

At eleven o'clock yesterday morning, the Jones family were at home. They were preparing for Tom's birthday party. <u>The boys were watching TV</u>. Dad was blowing up balloons. Mum was making a cake. The girls were playing a game.

Then the postman came to the house. Mum looked at the door. Tom sat down. Dad closed the window. Happy Birthday, Tom!

3 Look at Activity 2 again. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrases in the box.

> jump up   close the window   make sandwiches   open the door   sit down
> ~~put up decorations~~   talk on the phone   make a cake   play a game   ~~watch TV~~

1 The boys ___*weren't watching TV*___ . They *were putting up decorations* .

2 Mum _____ . She _____ .

3 The girls _____ . They _____ .

4 Tom _____ . He _____ .

5 Dad _____ . He _____ .