

What were you doing?

Introduction

- **Level:** B2
- **Skills:** Writing, Reading
- **Topics:** Grammar – Past Continuous
- **Merging subjects:** Creative thinking, problem-solving, critical thinking

The enigma

- **Keywords**

Students read a text and count how many times past continuous appears in the text.

- **Toolbox**

card/handout



What were you doing?

- **Description of the enigma**

I was walking home alone from college quite late yesterday evening. The wind was blowing hard and it was pouring with rain. There was no one around. Suddenly, I a big black van drove past me and stopped, just where the road curved round. I was feeling frightened and uneasy but I decided keep walking.

However, as soon as I got close to the van, it drove off. The same thing happened twice further down the same road. Just like the first time, the van pulled up about a hundred meters ahead of me and then waited until I almost reached it, then pulled away again. I was absolutely petrified. So, I decided to stop for a moment and wait. In the meantime the rain was coming down in torrents now. I was wondering what to do next, when a policeman came past.

I walked towards him and explained what the problem was. I talked to him and then I completely went into pieces. He was trying to calm me down when I heard the van drove off, thankfully for the last time.

The number of the adjectives will be the code they need to solve the enigma.

Solution: 6 times

Hints

The teacher initially has to tell students that the text is a narrative and the writer uses Past Continuous quite a few times, letting students conclude that they have to count the times Past Continuous appears in the text. If they do not realize that, the teacher can further ask students a leading question, such as “Can you identify all the Past Continuous tenses in the narrative?”



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More information

Possible restrictions

The size of the card and the letters should enable students with learning difficulties and eyesight problems to read it.

References

- ✓ The card was created online at www.canva.com.

