

Le prétérit en BE + -ING

Un temps bien difficile à manipuler, qui cause beaucoup de problèmes aux francophones, car il entre en concurrence avec le prétérit simple.

Révisions: le prétérit simple. Action passée, datée, terminée, courte.

Le prétérit en BE+–ING:

Emploi: il exprime une action en progression dans le passé, une action qui était en train de se dérouler quand une autre action s'est enclenchée.

Syntaxe:

auxiliaire BE au prétérit (was/were) + Base Verbale (l'infinitif sans TO) + -ING

Exemples:

Were they playing football when you saw them yesterday?

(sens: les enfants étaient-ils en train de jouer au football hier, au moment où vous les avez vus ?)

Réponses:

Yes, they were playing football when I saw them yesterday.

= Yes, they were.

No, they weren't playing football when I saw them yesterday.

= No, they weren't.

EXERCISE

Choisir le bon temps (prétérit simple ou prétérit en -ING?)

I _____ (1: have) a bath yesterday when the phone _____ (2: ring). "That must be my mother," I _____ (3: think). As I _____ (4: get) out of the bath, I _____ (5: put) my foot on my watch and I _____ (6: break) it. The phone _____ (7: still/ring). I _____ (8: run) out of the bathroom and I _____ (9: hit) my head on the door. It _____ (10: hurt) terribly and I _____ (11: want) to sit down for a moment, but the phone _____ (12: still/ring). "Please wait a minute, mother," I _____ (13: think). The cats _____ (14: sit) at the top of the stairs. I _____ (15: not/see) them and I _____ (16: fall). At the bottom of the stairs I _____ (17: get up). My right leg _____ (18: hurt) more than my head. The phone _____ (19: still/ring). At last I _____ (20: answer) it. It _____ (21: be) my mother. "Hello, dear. Is evrything all right?" she _____ (22: say).

REPONSES

1: was having | 2: rang | 3: thought | 4: was getting | 5: put | 6: broke | 7: was still ringing | 8: ran | 9: hit | 10: hurt | 11: wanted | 12: was still ringing | 13: thought | 14: were sitting | 15: didn't see | 16: fell | 17: got up | 18: was hurting | 19: was still ringing | 20: answered | 21: was | 22: said