

## Language practice

### The continuous (progressive) tenses



When he arrived I **was reading** a fantastic story about ...

In the first excerpt from *Kensuke's Kingdom* you heard that when Stella came up on deck, the family was busy:

Dad **was making** tea.

Michael **was doing** a navigation lesson.

The verbs above are in the continuous – or progressive – tense. This tense is used for **actions that continue** (go on) for a while.

You can use the continuous tense in the present, past and future.

You use this tense in different ways:

For an action that **began in the past and is still continuing**, for example:

I **am reading** a fantastic novel.

For an action **going on when another action took place**, for example:

I **was reading** when she arrived. While I **was reading**, she arrived.

For an action **going on at a particular time**, for example:

At 9 o'clock, I **was reading**.

For an action **in the future**, for example:

Tomorrow morning I **am seeing** the doctor. Or:

Tomorrow morning I **am going** to the doctor.

1. Copy the following sentences into your book and underline the verbs in the continuous tense. Say whether each one refers to the past, present or future continuous tense.
  - a) While Michael was steering, Mum was asleep.
  - b) What are you reading?
  - c) When will you be coming home?