

Test Your Grammar Skills

Past, Present, and Future Continuous Tenses with 'While'

At the Airport

Rita and Lee are waiting for their flight in the departure lounge at the airport. They are both doing different things at the same time. What are they doing?

A) Write 10 sentences using **present continuous + while + present continuous**. Use the nouns below – or use your own ideas. Answers will vary. Don't forget to include articles and prepositions! For example:

4.30pm: Rita is buying a book, while Lee is eating a pear.

argument
bag
bench
boarding pass
cashpoint
coffee

complaint
crisps
duty free
enquiry
escalator
flight

friend
game
gate number
internet
kiss
message

new jumper
newspaper
phone
phrasebook
plane
queue

restaurant
sleep
stairs
text
ticket
toilet

1. 4.30pm: _____
2. 4.45pm: _____
3. 4.55pm: _____
4. 5.05pm: _____
5. 5.16pm: _____
6. 5.20pm: _____
7. 5.35pm: _____
8. 5.48pm: _____
9. 6.00pm: _____
10. 6.10pm: _____

B) If you are feeling artistic, you could draw pictures to illustrate some or all of your sentences!

C) Imagine that all these actions happened **yesterday**. With a partner, ask and answer questions about Rita and Lee's day using **past continuous** (was/were + ing form), e.g.

Q: What was Rita doing at 4.30pm yesterday?

A: Buying a book.

Q: What was Lee doing while she was buying a book?

A: Eating a pear. etc.

D) Imagine that they are going to the airport **tomorrow**. Use your original sentences to predict what they will be doing using **future continuous** (will be + ing form), e.g.

Q: Will Rita be buying a book at 4.30pm tomorrow?

A: Yes, I think she will.

Q: What will Lee be doing while Rita's buying a book?

A: Probably eating a pear. etc.