

# Aren't firefighters cool?

Yesterday I was playing videogames in my room when I heard people screaming. I went out and saw: my neighbors' house was on fire!

In less than 10 minutes the firemen arrived and fought against the fire for one hour until they made it. Wow! They are really brave! One of them entered the house and saved the Johnson's dog that was trapped in the fire.

I made a decision: I want to be a fireman when I grow up. I'll be strong and brave enough to fight against the fire, to save people's lives and property. I can't wait! I can already see it in the newspaper: "Brave fireman rescues a family of four", Mom will be really proud.



Mark true (T) or false (F). When it's false, you'll have to justify your answer orally:

- The boy's house was on fire. ( )
- The boy thinks the firemen are brave. ( )
- He admires the firefighters. ( )
- It took long the firemen to arrive. ( )
- It took one hour to extinguish the fire. ( )
- The boy's neighbors have a pet. ( )
- A fireman saved the dog's life. ( )
- The boy wants to be a firefighter when he grows up. ( )
- He wants to be as strong and brave as the firefighters. ( )

Answer the questions:

What was the boy doing when the neighbors' house caught fire?

Did he want to be a fireman before that day?

Why did he decide to be a fireman in the future?

What qualities does he think are essential for being a fireman?

What can he already see in the newspaper?

Who do you think the newspaper is referring to?

How does the boy think his mother will feel? Do you agree with him?

Have you ever seen a house burning up?

Do you know someone whose house burned out? What difficulties did the house owner face because of that?

Do you think that a house burning is the worst thing that can happen to a family? Why (not)?

What can we do to avoid it?



The boy wants to be strong and brave like the firemen. He wants to be **as** strong and brave **as** the fireman. Complete with comparison of equality:

1. A TV is \_\_\_\_\_ a computer. [expensive]
2. My sister is \_\_\_\_\_ a mule. [stubborn]
3. Snow White was \_\_\_\_\_ snow. [white]
4. Physics is \_\_\_\_\_ math in my opinion. [difficult]
5. John is \_\_\_\_\_ a dummy. [dumb]

Complete with the comparative of equality in the affirmative or negative (A bike is not as expensive as a car.) in order to make sense:

1. Mary is \_\_\_\_\_ Tom; he is 4 feet and she is 3 foot 10. [tall]
2. Clara's mother is her role model. She wants to be \_\_\_\_\_ her mother when she grows up. [intelligent]
3. Let's buy the radio at that other store, because it is \_\_\_\_\_ it is here. [expensive]
4. This pair of pants is \_\_\_\_\_ that one because that one is newer. [black]
5. I love science because it's \_\_\_\_\_ math. I hate math! [tough]



" I was playing videogames when I heard people screaming." A long action (play videogames) was taking place in the past when a short action (hear people screaming) happened. The long action is expressed with the verb to be in the past (was / were) + a verb in the -ing form. The short action is expressed with the past simple. Complete the sentences below:

- A. Mark \_\_\_\_\_ when the phone \_\_\_\_\_. [study / ring]
- B. Victoria \_\_\_\_\_ when we \_\_\_\_\_ lunch. [arrive / have ]
- C. Mom \_\_\_\_\_ some carrots when she \_\_\_\_\_ her finger. [slice / cut]
- D. Gerald and Philip \_\_\_\_\_ from work when the car \_\_\_\_\_ into a wall. [return / crash]
- E. The kids \_\_\_\_\_ outside when the storm \_\_\_\_\_. [to play / to start]
- F. I \_\_\_\_\_ when the dog \_\_\_\_\_ away. [sleep / run]

## TEACHER'S KEYS

Mark true (T) or false (F). When it's false, you'll have to justify your answer orally:

The boy's house was on fire. ( F )

The boy thinks the firemen are brave. ( T )

He admires the firefighters. ( T )

It took long the firemen to arrive. ( F )

It took one hour to extinguish the fire. ( T )

The boy's neighbors have a pet. ( T )

A fireman saved the dog's life. ( T )

The boy wants to be a firefighter when he grows up. ( T )

He wants to be as strong and brave as the firefighters. ( T )

**Answer the questions:**

What was the boy doing when the neighbors' house caught fire?

**HE WAS PLAYING VIDEOGAMES.**

Did he want to be a fireman before that day?

**NO, HE DECIDED TO BE A FIREMAN AFTER THAT DAY.**

Why did he decide to be a fireman in the future?

**BECAUSE THE ADMIRE THE FIREMEN.**

What qualities does he think are essential for being a fireman?

**HE THINKS THEY MUST BE BRAVE AND STRONG.**

What can he already see in the newspaper?

**'A BRAVE FIREMAN RESCUES A FAMILY OF FOUR'**

Who do you think the newspaper is referring to?

**IT'S REFERRING TO THE BOY IN THE FUTURE.**

How does the boy think his mother will feel? Do you agree with him?

**HE THINKS SHE'LL FEEL PROUD.**

A. Mark **WAS STUDYING** when the phone **RANG**. [study / ring]

B. Victoria **ARRIVED** when we **WERE HAVING** lunch. [arrive / have ]

C. Mom **WAS SLICING** some carrots when she **CUT** her finger. [slice / cut]

D. Gerald and Philip **WERE RETURNING** from work when the car **CRASHED** into a wall. [return / crash]

E. The kids **WERE PLAYING** outside when the storm **STARTED**. [to play / to start]

F. I **WAS SLEEPING** when the dog **RAN** away. [sleep / run]

1. A TV is **AS EXPENSIVE AS** a computer. [expensive]

2. My sister is **AS STUBBORN AS** a mule. [stubborn]

3. Snow White was **AS WHITE AS** snow. [white]

4. Physics is **AS DIFFICULT AS** math in my opinion. [difficult]

5. John is **AS DUMB AS** a dummy. [dumb]

**Complete with the comparative of equality in the affirmative or negative (A bike is not as expensive as a car.) in order to make sense:**

1. Mary is **NOT AS TALL AS** Tom; he is 4 feet and she is 3 foot 10. [tall]

2. Clara's mother is her role model. She wants to be **AS INTELLIGENT AS** her mother when she grows up. [intelligent]

3. Let's buy the radio at that other store, because it is **NOT AS EXPENSIVE AS** it is here. [expensive]

4. This pair of pants is **NOT AS BLACK AS** that one because that one is newer. [black]

5. I love science because it's **NOT AS TOUGH AS** math. I hate math! [tough]

## PAST SIMPLE

Form: we add "ed" to all regular verbs,  
Irregular verbs must be learnt by heart.

We use the Past Simple for something in the past which is finished.

- He played tennis yesterday.
- The children went to the park this morning.

We use "did" to make questions and "didn't" for negatives. The verb stays in the base form.

- Did you see Bob yesterday?
- They didn't come to the party on Sunday.

## PAST CONTINUOUS

Form: was/were + verb + ing

The Past Continuous means that at a time in the past we were in the middle of an action.

- We were playing tennis at 4 p.m. yesterday.
- They were eating when we arrived.

We use: wasn't/weren't + verb + ing for negatives:

- John wasn't reading a book when we arrived.

We use: was/were + subject + verb + ing for questions:

- Was she making dinner when you got home?

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for half an hour before they \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive).
2. Where \_\_\_\_\_ (he/go) when you \_\_\_\_\_ (see) him?
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ (phone) me to say they would be late.
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to John on the phone when I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) in.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (she/know) they \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to the party?
6. How many people \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in the waiting room when you \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive)?
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) them in the street while I \_\_\_\_\_ (shop).
8. The postman \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) while I \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the house.
9. The children \_\_\_\_\_ (make) so much noise that I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/hear) the phone ring.
10. We \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) down by the river when it \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to rain.
11. The storm \_\_\_\_\_ (start) while we \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) back from London.
12. They \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) when they \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in Paris.
13. What time \_\_\_\_\_ (she/arrive) last night?
14. He \_\_\_\_\_ (break) his foot while he \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football on Saturday.
15. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/like) to disturb her because she \_\_\_\_\_ (study).
16. I \_\_\_\_\_ (cut) my finger while I \_\_\_\_\_ (chop) vegetables.
17. The plane \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) over an hour late.
18. I \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) fast when I was flashed by the speed camera.
19. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you/do) at 8 p.m. yesterday?
20. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to several concerts while they \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in Paris.

**KEY** He was waiting for half an hour before they arrived. / Where was he going when you saw him? / He phoned me to say they would be late. / 3. She was talking to John on the phone when I walked in. / Did she know they were coming to the party? / 3. How many people were sitting in the waiting room when you arrived? / I met them in the street while I was shopping. / The postman arrived while I was leaving the house. / The children were making so much noise that I didn't hear the phone ring. / We were walking down by the river when it started to rain. / The storm started while we were driving back from London. / They met when they were working in Paris. / What time did she arrive last night? / He broke his foot while he was playing football on Saturday. / I didn't like to disturb her because she was studying. / I cut my finger while I was chopping vegetables. / The plane left over an hour e. / I as driving fast when I was flashed by the speed camera. / What were you doing at 8 p.m. yesterday? / My parents went to several concerts while they were staying in Paris.