

# The School Trip

Fleydo English School • Teens • A2 • Reading • 30 min

## Lesson Objectives

- Read a longer past narrative
- Use Past Simple + Past Continuous together
- Use while and when correctly
- Structure a story
- Write about a school trip

## Part 1: Reading — The Disastrous Museum Trip

Finn's diary: School trip to the National History Museum. While Mr Brennan was counting heads, Seb arrived late, packed lunch falling out of his bag. The coach journey took 90 minutes. While we were travelling, Priya was showing me videos when the coach braked hard — her phone flew three rows forward!

At the museum: dinosaur skeletons, Egyptian artefacts, a massive blue whale model. I was looking at a Roman sword when the fire alarm went off. We stood outside for 20 minutes while security guards were checking the building. False alarm. While we were waiting, Seb dropped his sandwich into a puddle. Not his day!

Back inside, only 40 minutes left. I was rushing to finish the worksheet when I bumped into a display stand and knocked leaflets everywhere. A guard gave me a look. While I was picking up the leaflets, Priya took a photo: 'Finn destroys the museum.' Thanks, Priya.

On the coach home, while Mr Brennan was doing a headcount, he realised Seb had left his coat. Despite the chaos, one of the best days ever. When I got home, Mum said: 'Sounds like a trip you'll never forget!'

## Part 2: Comprehension

1. Where did Year 9 go? (National History Museum, London.)
2. What happened on the coach? (Coach braked, Priya's phone flew.)
3. What happened while Finn looked at a sword? (Fire alarm went off.)
4. What happened to Seb's sandwich? (Dropped in a puddle.)
5. What did Finn knock over? (Leaflet holder / display stand.)
6. What did Seb leave behind? (His coat.)

## Part 3: Grammar

**□ Past Continuous = background action**

I was looking at a sword. We were travelling. (was/were + -ing)

**□ "when" + Past Simple = interruption**

I was looking at a sword when the alarm went off.

She was showing me videos when the coach braked.

**□ "while" + Past Continuous = parallel actions**

While we were travelling, most people were chatting.

While I was picking up leaflets, Priya took a photo.

**□ when = short action. while = long action.**

Long action	Short action	Connector
I was looking at a sword	the alarm went off	when
We were travelling	people were chatting	while
We were waiting outside	Seb dropped his sandwich	while
I was picking up leaflets	Priya took a photo	while

**□ Part 4: Quiz**

- I \_\_\_ at a sword when the alarm went off.  
a) looked b) was looking c) am looking d) look
- \_\_\_ we were travelling, people were chatting.  
a) When b) While c) During d) Then
- \_\_\_ we arrived, Mr Brennan gave us a worksheet.  
a) When b) While c) During d) As soon
- What did Finn knock over?  
a) Glass case b) Leaflet holder c) Skeleton d) Guard
- She was showing me videos when the coach \_\_\_\_.  
a) was braking b) braked c) braking d) brake
- Was the fire alarm real?  
a) Yes, fire b) No, false alarm c) Nobody knows d) Yes, small


**📝 Part 5: Fill in the Blanks**

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ at a sword \_\_\_\_\_ the alarm went off.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_, most people were chatting.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ at the museum, the teacher gave us a worksheet.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ up leaflets, Priya \_\_\_\_\_ a photo.

Answers: 1. was looking, when 2. While, were travelling 3. When, arrived 4. While, was picking, took

## Part 6: Speaking & Writing

- Best school trip you've been on?
- Did anything funny happen?
- Museum, outdoor, or adventure trip?
- What trip would you love to go on?

 Write About a School Trip 10-14 sentences. Where, who with, what happened on the journey, 3+ "while" + Past Continuous, 3+ "when" + Past Simple, something funny/unexpected. Start: "Last term, our class went to..."

### Review Checklist

- I can use Past Continuous for background actions.
- I can use when + Past Simple for interruptions.
- I can use while + Past Continuous for parallel actions.
- I know the difference between when and while.
- I can combine Past Simple and Past Continuous.
- I can write about a trip using while and when.

**Well done! You completed Lesson 13: The School Trip!**

## □ Answer Key

### Quiz Answers:

1. b) was looking
2. b) While
3. a) When
4. b) Leaflet holder
5. b) braked
6. b) No, false alarm