

2B past continuous: was / were + verb + -ing

At 8.45 last Saturday I **was working** in my office.

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I **wasn't doing** anything important.

My friends **were having** breakfast. They **weren't working**.

A **Was it raining** when you got up? B No, **it wasn't**.

A What **were you doing** at 11 o'clock last night? B I **was watching** TV.

☐ +	I / He / She / It	was working	You / We / They	were working
☐ -	I / He / She / It	wasn't working	You / We / They	weren't working

☐ ? ☒ ☐ X	Was he working?	Yes, he was. / No, he wasn't.
	Were they working?	Yes, they were. / No, they weren't.

- Use the past continuous to describe an action in progress at a specific moment in the past.
- We often use the past continuous to describe the situation at the beginning of a story or narrative.

past simple or past continuous?

I **was working** in my office when the boss **walked in**.

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I **was having** lunch when my sister **arrived**.

- Use the past simple for a completed action in the past.
- Use the past continuous for an action in progress before or at the time of the past simple action.

2B

- a Complete the sentences with a verb in the past continuous.

- I was eating dinner, so I didn't answer the phone. (eat)
- 1 I took this photo when my wife _____ in the garden. (work)
 - 2 He met his wife when he _____ in Japan. (live)
 - 3 They _____ for us when we arrived. (not wait)
 - 4 _____ she _____ a coat when she went out? (wear)
 - 5 The sun _____ when I left for work. (shine)
 - 6 What _____ you _____ at 7.30 last night? (do)
 - 7 I _____ when you gave the instructions. (not listen)
 - 8 We _____ TV when you phoned. (not watch)

- b Put the verbs into the past simple or past continuous.

- She arrived when we were having dinner. (arrive, have)
- 1 I _____ my arm when I _____ football. (break, play)
 - 2 _____ you _____ fast when the police _____ you? (drive, stop)
 - 3 It _____ when we _____ the pub. (snow, leave)
 - 4 I _____ the match because I _____. (not see, work)
 - 5 When you _____ me, I _____ to my boss. (call, talk)
 - 6 We _____ in Cambridge when we _____. (study, meet)
 - 7 _____ they _____ in Rome when they _____ their first baby? (live, have)