

PAST SIMPLE- PAST CONTINUOUS REVIEW**Past actions and situations**

We use the **past continuous**

- to describe an action or situation happening at or around a time in the past:
*I **wasn't feeling** well that day, so I **didn't go** out with the others.*
- for temporary past situations:
*We **were living** in Beijing at the time of the 2008 Olympics. (We don't live there now.)*
- for two actions/situations happening at the same time:
*While Rob **was playing** his match, I **was waiting** in the car outside.*

As with the present continuous (► **Unit 28.2**), we can use the past continuous to criticise another person's actions, often with **always**:

*Karla **was always complaining** about something or other.*

**Interrupted actions**

We use the past continuous and the past simple together to show that one action (past simple) interrupts another action (past continuous):

*The bus **was going** too fast*

*and it **hit** the car.*
(The continuous action stops.)

*We **were having** dinner*

*when she **arrived**.*
(The continuous action doesn't stop.)

**Background situations**

We often use the past continuous to describe a 'background' situation in the past:
*When we arrived at the beach, **the sun wasn't shining**.*

We also use the past continuous to 'set the scene' for a story or account of something that happened; the actions that follow are in the past simple: *Dana **was living** in Istanbul that summer. Isik **was working** at the same school as her. As soon as they **met**, they immediately got on with each other ...*

We don't usually use continuous forms of state verbs (e.g. like, see, hear, think, agree).



1) Write the words in the correct order to make sentences. Put the verbs in the past continuous.

0. At that man you why stare?

Why were you staring at that man?

1. Not work during the strike they.

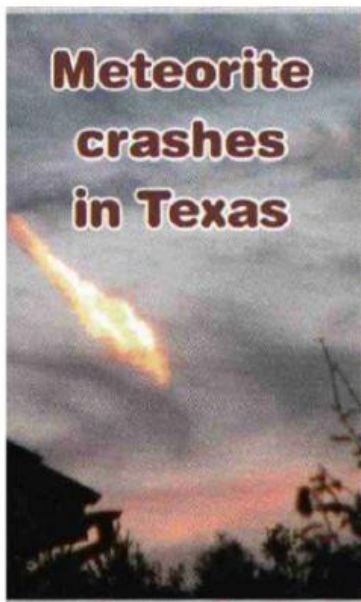
2. Where you at the start of the year live?

3. Not feel yesterday morning I very well.

4. Heavily it rain and the rivers rise.

5. She study while I watch TV.

2) Read the article and choose the correct words.



Meteorite crashes in Texas

At 3.30 p.m. yesterday a large meteorite (0) crashed / *was crashing* to Earth near the small town of Karlsville, Texas. Many local people (1) *was* / *were* doing things outside and (2) *were seeing* / *saw* it happen. Here are a couple of their reports:

"I (3) *washed* / *was washing* my car when I (4) *noticed* / *was noticing* a bright light in the sky. I (5) *didn't know* / *wasn't knowing* what it was."

"We (6) *were* / *did* driving home from the shopping mall when we (7) *heard* / *were hearing* a loud bang. When we looked up we could see smoke coming from the middle of a nearby field."

It seems that whatever people (8) *did* / *were doing*, they (9) *stopped* / *were stopping* and (10) *rushed* / *were rushing* to the site of the crash. Local police said that this was foolish but that nobody was hurt.

3) Choose the correct answer.

1. When I _____ up, it _____.
2. He _____ fast when he _____ a woman.
3. They _____ out because it _____.
4. When I last _____ Ken, he _____ his car.
5. Lyn _____ the living room when she _____ off the ladder.

All the exercises were taken from MyGrammarLab B1/B2