

Grammar help

Past progressive

Affirmative and negative

1 Choose the correct answers.

They wasn't / weren't walking down the street.

- Grandpa wasn't / weren't listening to the radio.
- The men was / were robbing a bank.
- I was / were talking to my friends.
- You wasn't / weren't listening to your teacher.
- Mom was / were cleaning the bathroom.
- We wasn't / weren't shoplifting.
- It was / were raining yesterday evening.

2 Complete the sentences with the affirmative (✓) or negative (X) past progressive form of the verbs in parentheses.

They weren't doing (do) the cooking. (X)

- I thought they _____ (study) history. (✓)
- You _____ (make) a cake. (X)
- He _____ (come) out of the sports center. (X)
- Mark _____ (wait) for his train. (✓)
- I _____ (sleep) at 8 a.m. this morning. (✓)
- You _____ (play) in the concert. (X)
- Emily _____ (talk) to her teacher. (✓)
- Mom _____ (watch) the TV. (X)
- We _____ (walk) through the park. (✓)

yes / no questions and short answers

3 Complete the questions in the past progressive. Then write affirmative or negative short answers.

Were we living in Sao Paulo?

(we / live) in Sao Paulo?

(X) No, we / you weren't.

- _____ (you / have) dinner?
(X) _____
- _____ (Leo / do) the ironing?
(✓) _____
- _____ (she / walk) home?
(X) _____
- _____ (the boys / go) to the movies?
(✓) _____
- _____ (Dad / clean) the car?
(✓) _____

4 Write sentences in the past progressive with the words below.



While / I / speak with my friend / my brother / play / soccer

While I was speaking with my friend, my brother was playing soccer.

- We / cook / while / you / sleep

- Kate / listen / to music / while / she / study

- While / they / play / computer games / I / watch / TV

- While / it / rain / we / sit / in the kitchen

- Dad / climb / a mountain / while / Mom / do / a parachute jump

Past progressive and simple past + *when / while*

5 Check the correct option.

Were you walking down Wilson Street when the man mugged you?

a mugged ☒ b was mugging ☐ c mugs ☐

1 Were you eating when we _____?

a arrived ☐ b were arriving ☐ c arrive ☐

2 While I _____ my homework, I heard a strange noise.

a do ☐ b was doing ☐ c did ☐

3 Emma was having lunch in a restaurant while the thieves _____ her house.

a burglarize ☐ b were burglarizing ☐
c burglarized ☐

4 While Luke was playing tennis, his friend _____ him.

a IMing ☐ b IMs ☐ c IMed ☐

5 Ollie met his girlfriend while he _____ at college.

a studies ☐ b was studying ☐ c studied ☐

6 Choose the correct answers.

When / While no one was looking, Ben took a cookie from the cupboard.

1 I was having breakfast **when / while** my phone rang.

2 They were talking about the party **when / while** they were eating.

3 **When / While** I started college, my parents were living in New York.

4 Vicky found her MP3 player **when / while** she was cleaning her bedroom.