

Lesson 7 Past Continuous

1. Grammar Link

⇒ Go to page 111. Take Grammar Quiz 6.

2. Grammar Introduction

A. Past Continuous

Affirmative	Negative	Yes/No Question
I/She/He/It was eating. We/You/They were eating.	I/She/He/It wasn't eating. We/You/They weren't eating.	Was I/she/he/it eating? Were we/you/they eating?

- The past continuous is used for an action that was going on at a specific time in the past.
- The past continuous tense: **Be (past tense) + verb-ing**
- wasn't = was + not, weren't = were + not
- Answers to yes/no questions: Yes, ~was/were. No, ~wasn't/weren't.

Complete the sentence in the past continuous tense.

- climb ☒ My cat wasn't climbing a tree at 7 o'clock this morning.
- read ☐ Mr. Johnson was reading a newspaper at 6 o'clock yesterday.
- talk ☐ Were you talking to your friend at 9:30 last night?
- have ☒ Amy and Mary were having lunch at 1:30 yesterday.
- sleep ☐ I was sleeping at midnight last night.
- wash ☐ Was your dad washing his car at 2:00 yesterday?
- practice ☒ The twins were practicing piano at 5:00 yesterday.
- study ☐ The girls were studying at the library at 8:00 yesterday.

B. Past Simple vs. Past Continuous 1

Sam and Tom **watched** a movie from 2:00 to 3:30 yesterday afternoon.
They **were watching** a movie at 2:30.

- The past simple is used to talk about actions that began and ended in the past.
- The past continuous is used to talk about an action that was going on at a specific time in the past.



Complete the sentence.

- 1 Mary and her family sat at the dinner table at 6:30 yesterday.

They **eat** were eating dinner at 6:35.

- 2 Tom went to bed at 10:30 last night.

At 11:30, Tom **sleep**

- 3 The math test was from 9:00 to 9:50 this morning.

I **take** the test at 9:20.

- 4 The soccer game was from 2:00 to 3:00 yesterday.

The players **play** soccer at 2:20.



C. Past Simple vs. Past Continuous 2

I studied from 8:00 to 9:00 last night.

Amy called at 8:30.

I **was studying** when Amy called.

- The past continuous is also used to talk about an action that was going on at the time of another action in the past.

When Amy called, I was studying.

Amy called **while** I was studying.

- **when** = at that time
- **while** = during that time

Complete the sentence using when or while.

- 1 I was taking a nap when the door bell rang.

= The door bell rang I was taking a nap.

- 2 The teacher came in the students were singing.

= The students were singing the teacher came in.

- 3 it started to rain, we were riding our bikes.

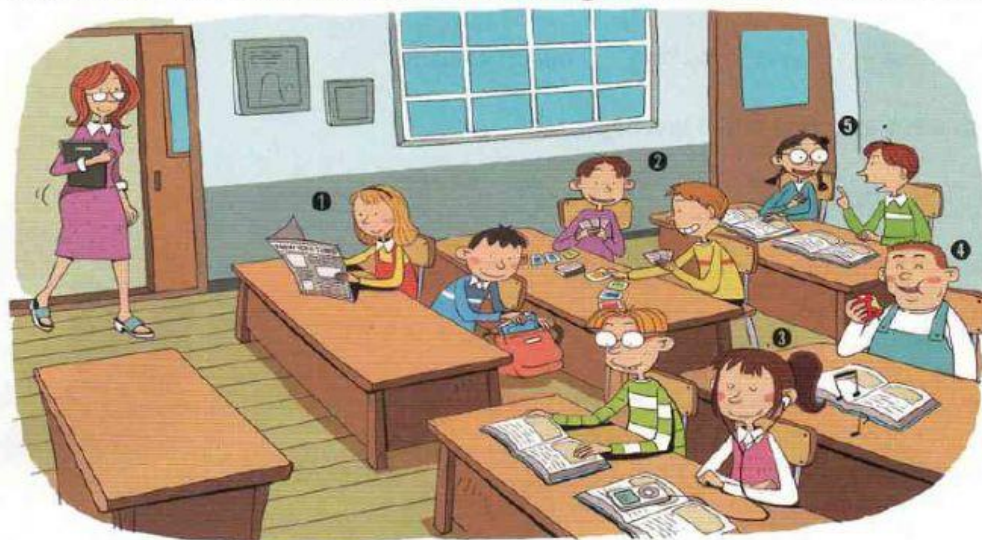
= It started to rain we were riding our bikes.

- 4 you called, I was doing my homework.

= You called I was doing my homework.

3. Grammar Practice

A Look and write. What were the students doing when the teacher came in?



- 1 Amy was reading a newspaper when the teacher came in.
- 2 John and Mike _____
- 3 Mary _____
- 4 Tom _____
- 5 Sally and Ken _____

B Write the sentence. Use the past continuous or the past simple tense.

- 1 when my friend called me.
I / do / my homework
- 2 While I was sleeping,
it / snow
- 3 in the kitchen when his mom came in.
Sam / kick the ball
- 4 while we were having a party.
the lights / go out



C Write the answers about you. Use a complete sentence.

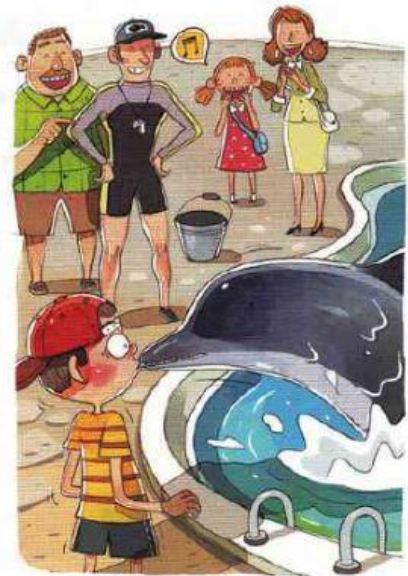
1 What were you doing when the teacher came into the classroom today?

2 What was your mom doing when you came home from school yesterday?

D Write the verb in the past continuous tense.

A Big Wet Kiss

When I was a little boy, I was visiting an aquarium with my family. I had a great time. The dolphin trainer asked me to help him while my family and I watched the show. The dolphins swam in their tank, and I stood right on the edge. Did I go in the water? No, I didn't get that wet. I stood very still like the trainer told me. A dolphin came toward me. It jumped. It kissed me! Then I knew I wanted to be a dolphin trainer too.



4. Grammar Summary

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When Amy called, I was studying. Amy called while I was studying.		