Past Continuous

12

34 **Listen and repeat. Then act out.**

was/were + verb -ing

Affirmative	Negative	
	Long form	Short form
I **was** walking	I **was not** walking	I **wasn't** walking
You **were** walking	You **were not** walking	You **weren't** walking
He **was** walking	He **was not** walking	He **wasn't** walking
She **was** walking	She **was not** walking	She **wasn't** walking
It **was** walking	It **was not** walking	It **wasn't** walking
We **were** walking	We **were not** walking	We **weren't** walking
You **were** walking	You **were not** walking	You **weren't** walking
They **were** walking	They **were not** walking	They **weren't** walking

Questions	Short answers
Was I/he/she it walking?	Yes, I/he/she/it **was**. / No, I/he/she/it **wasn't**.
Were we/you/they walking?	Yes, we/you/they **were**. / No, we/you/they **weren't**.

We use the past continuous for an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past, or for two or more actions happening at the same time in the past.

He **was studying** for his Maths test at 9 o'clock last night.
Mum **was reading** a book while Dad **was watching** TV. (two actions happening at the same time)

We also use the past continuous for an action which was in progress when another action interrupted it. The action that interrupted it is in the past simple.

Kate **was sunbathing** when it started to rain.

Time expressions used with the past continuous:
while, when, as, all day / night / morning, all day yesterday, etc.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

12 Past Continuous

1 **Look at the picture and write what was happening when the lights went out. What was each person doing? Use the verbs to describe the pictures.**

sleep on the sofa	talk on the phone	listen to music
watch television	eat a snack at the dinner table	read a book

1 Grandfather .Grandfather was reading a book when the lights went out.....
2 Hakim and Amir .....
3 Mum .....
4 Grandmother .....
5 Alisha .....
6 Dad .....

2 **Oliver was at camp last Wednesday. Look at his schedule. What was he doing at:**

7:45 am*? 8:30 am? 12:45 pm*? 4:00 pm? 7:00 pm?

1 A: What was Oliver doing at 7:45 am..... last Wednesday?.....
B: He was having breakfast.....
2 A: .....?
B: ..... .
3 A: .....?
B: ..... .
4 A: .....?
B: ..... .
5 A: .....?
B: ..... .

Wednesday April 23rd

1 7:30 am – 8:00 am: have breakfast
2 8:00 am – 12:00 pm: walk in the mountains
3 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: have lunch
4 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm: sleep
5 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm: play football

Note: am = before noon, pm = after noon

▶ **In pairs, say what you were doing yesterday at these times.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 **Write sentences using the prompts below and the *past continuous*. Then identify the use of the *past continuous*.**

• simultaneous actions • action in progress interrupted by another
• action in progress at a stated time in the past

1

(John/listen music/his parents/watch TV)
John was listening to music while his parents were watching TV. (simultaneous actions)

2

(Rosalie/cook/cut/finger)
.....
.....

3

(Lizzy and Nadia/play basketball/5 o'clock/yesterday)
.....
.....

4 **Form questions using the *past continuous* as in the example. Then answer the questions about yourself.**

1 you / play football / at 3 o'clock yesterday?
A: Were you playing football at 3 o'clock yesterday?
B: No, I wasn't. I was doing my homework.

2 you / have lunch / at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon?
A: .....
B: .....

3 you / talk / on phone / at 8 o'clock yesterday evening?
A: .....
B: .....

4 you / watch / DVD / last Saturday morning?
A: .....
B: .....

What's my lie?

GAME

In pairs, think of one thing you were doing yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock and one lie about what you were doing yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Tell your partner. Your partner has to guess which one is the lie.

Student A: Yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock, I was writing a book. Yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock, I was doing my homewok.
Student B: You weren't writing a book!
Student A: That's right! It's your turn now.

LIVEWORKSHEETS