past progressive* *What were you doing at 8.00?*

Level 2

+	*I **was** working*	*you **were** working*	*he/she/it **was** working*	*we/they **were** working*
?	***was** I working?*	***were** you working?*	***was** he/she/it working?*	***were** we/they working?*
-	*I **was not** working*	*you **were not** working*	*he/she/it **was not** working* etc	
	Contractions: *wasn't, weren't*			

We make the **past progressive** with ***was/were* + *...ing***. (For spelling rules, see page 23.)

*At 8 o'clock I **was waiting** for a train. What **were** you **doing**?*

We use the **past progressive** to say what was (not) happening **around** (before, at and perhaps after) a **past time**.

*'What **were** you **doing at 8.00**? **Were** you **watching TV**?'* (NOT ~~*What did you do*~~ ...)
***'At 8.00?** No, I **wasn't watching** TV. I **was playing** cards.'* (NOT ~~*I played*~~ ...)



1 What were the people doing yesterday evening? Look at the pictures and complete the sentences with words from the box. Use past progressive verbs.

cook supper	dance	drive home
not watch TV	play cards ✓	

▸ At 9.15 Sarah was playing cards.
1 At 10.30 Fred and Alice .....
2 At 8.20 Keith .....
3 At 7.50 Mary .....
4 At 11.00 Oliver .....



We make past progressive questions with ***was/were* + subject + *...ing***.

STATEMENT + : *It **was** raining.* *You **were** working.* *All the children **were** singing.*
QUESTION ? : *Was it raining?* *Were you working?* *What were all the children singing?*

2 Write questions.

▸ 'At 10.00 I was reading.' (*a newspaper*) Were you reading a newspaper?
▸ 'When I saw Peter he was eating.' (*what*) What was he eating?
1 'When I went into Alesha's office, she was writing.' (*letters*) .....
2 'At lunchtime Richard was shopping.' (*where*) .....
3 'At 8.30 Anna was cooking.' (*what*) .....
4 'When I arrived, all the children were crying.' (*why*) .....
5 'At midnight, Liz and Jack were driving.' (*to Scotland*) .....

3 What were you doing at 10 o'clock last night?

.....

* Also called 'past continuous'

In some answers, both contracted forms (for example *I'm, don't*) and full forms (for example *I am, do not*) are possible. Normally both are correct.

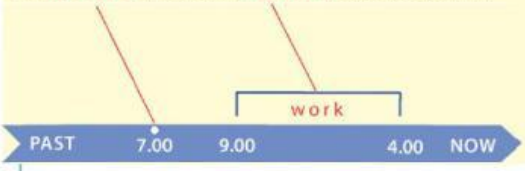
LIVEWORKSHEETS

Level 2

simple past or past progressive? *I walked / I was walking*

We use the **simple past** to talk about **complete** actions (long or short).
We use the **past progressive** for actions which were **not complete** at a past time.

Joe got up at 7.00 and worked from 9.00 to 4.00.



At 8.00, when Joe came home, I was reading.



1 Simple past or past progressive?

- I *lived* / *was living* in France for eight years.
- Sue *lived* / *was living* in France when her uncle died.

1 At 6.15, when you phoned, I *had* / *was having* a shower.
2 We *watched* / *were watching* TV all evening.
3 Matt *watched* / *was watching* TV when Anita came in.
4 My father *worked* / *was working* hard all his life.
5 They got married while they *studied* / *were studying* at London University.
6 Yesterday we *drove* / *were driving* from Oxford to Edinburgh and back.
7 It was a nice evening, so she *walked* / *was walking* home from work.
8 I met Sylvie while I *worked* / *was working* in Japan.
9 At university I *studied* / *was studying* physics.
10 When I last saw him he *talked* / *was talking* to a policeman.

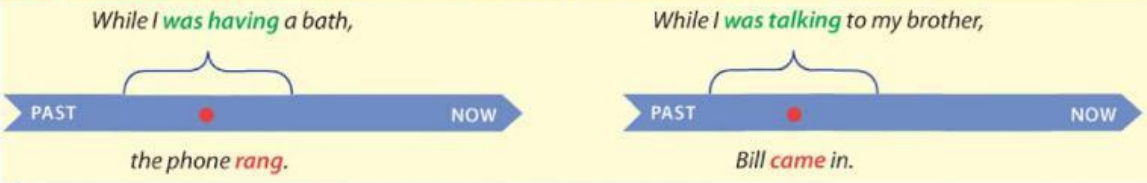
2 Complete the sentences with past progressive verbs.

- When I got home (*the children watch TV* +) When I got home the children were watching TV.
- (*you cycle* ?) when you broke your leg Were you cycling when you broke your leg?
- When I saw Joan (*she look* -) happy When I saw Joan she wasn't looking happy.

1 At seven o'clock on Friday (*we play cards* +)
.....
2 When I saw him he was holding the phone but (*talk* -)
.....
3 When Mary got up (*it snow* +)
.....
4 When I saw Alice, (*she walk* -) very fast
.....
5 What (*you do* ?) at ten o'clock yesterday evening
.....
6 When you heard them, (*they talk about me* ?)
.....
7 How fast (*you drive* ?) when you had the accident
.....
8 The doorbell rang when I (*expect* -) anybody
.....
9 I don't know what I (*do* +) at 10.00 on January 13th, 2005
.....
10 I had to drive to London because the trains (*run* -) when I left home
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Note the difference when we use the **past progressive** and the **simple past** together.
Past progressive: longer action or situation.
Simple past: complete shorter action that **happened** while the longer action **was happening**.



3 Put simple past and past progressive verbs in the right places.

▶ While I was walking down the road, I saw Bill. (*walk; see*)
1 While I ..... the newspaper, the cat ..... on to the table. (*read; jump*)
2 Alan ..... Helen while he ..... in Morocco. (*meet; travel*)
3 Sally ..... her leg while she ..... (*break; ski*)
4 While I ..... , somebody ..... my car. (*shop; steal*)
5 Ruth ..... me eight times yesterday while I ..... (*phone; work*)
6 The police ..... me while I ..... home. (*stop; drive*)
7 I ..... an interesting report on the radio while I ..... breakfast. (*hear; have*)
8 Dad ..... to sleep again while he ..... TV. (*go; watch*)
9 While I ..... I ..... a glass. (*wash up; break*)
10 I ..... my hand while I ..... in the kitchen. (*cut; work*)
11 When I ..... the house I took my coat because it ..... (*leave; snow*)
12 When I ..... the door they ..... about me. (*open; talk*)
13 The telephone ..... while I ..... lunch. (*ring; cook*)
14 When I last ..... from Harry he ..... in Portugal. (*hear; work*)

4 Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

1 This morning I listened to the news before I was going out. .....
2 I walked up to the policeman and asked him the way to the station. .....
3 When Ann arrived I was writing letters. .....
4 The cat was bringing in a mouse while I was having breakfast. .....
5 I didn't go out because when I looked out of the window it rained. .....
6 When I went to sleep the teacher was talking about grammar. .....
7 The teacher was still talking about grammar when I woke up. .....
8 Jenny and Takashi got married while she worked in Tokyo. .....

5 Put in words from the box, in the simple past or past progressive.

drive	open	pass	pull	run	shine ✓	sing	start	turn	turn	wait

It was a beautiful morning. The sun ▶ was shining ... and birds 1 ..... . About five thousand people 2 ..... in front of the palace. At 10.00, the guards 3 ..... the Palace gates, and the President's car 4 ..... out and 5 ..... left into Democracy Street. The crowds 6 ..... to sing the National Anthem. The President's car 7 ..... right into Constitution Square. Then suddenly, just as it 8 ..... the Ritz Hotel, a man 9 ..... out in front of it and 10 ..... a gun from his pocket.

In some answers, both contracted forms (for example *I'm, don't*) and full forms (for example *I am, do not*) are possible. Normally both are correct.

LIVEWORKSHEETS