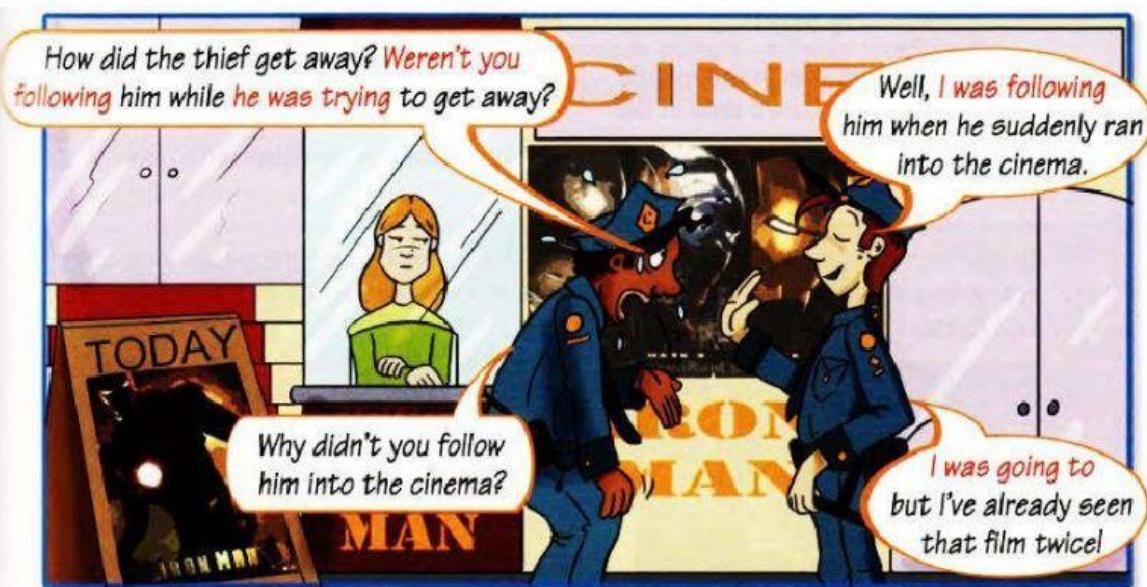


## I. PAST CONTINUOUS – USED TO

Past Continuous: **was/were + verb -ing**

| Affirmative       | Interrogative      | Negative              |                        |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
|                   |                    | Long form             | Short form             |
| I was helping     | Was I helping?     | I was not helping     | I wasn't helping       |
| You were helping  | Were you helping?  | You were not helping  | You weren't helping    |
| He was helping    | Was he helping?    | He was not helping    | He wasn't helping etc. |
| She was helping   | Was she helping?   | She was not helping   |                        |
| It was helping    | Was it helping?    | It was not helping    |                        |
| We were helping   | Were we helping?   | We were not helping   |                        |
| You were helping  | Were you helping?  | You were not helping  |                        |
| They were helping | Were they helping? | They were not helping |                        |

| Negative - Interrogative |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wasn't I helping?        | Weren't you helping? etc. |

Time words used with the Past Continuous: **while, when, as**

1 The fire alarm went off at the Crown Hotel last night. Put the verbs in the *past continuous* to describe what each person was doing.

- When the fire alarm went off, Mr Cook ..... *was talking* ..... (talk) on the phone.
- A porter ..... (carry) some luggage.
- Miss Jones ..... (read) a magazine.
- Two men ..... (sit) in the reception area.

## Past Continuous versus Past Simple

### Past Continuous is used:

- for an action that was in the middle of happening at a stated time in the past.
- At 8 o'clock last night she **was watching** TV.
- for two or more actions which were happening at the same time in the past (simultaneous actions).



At 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon Ben **was doing** his homework while his dad **was cooking** dinner.

- for a past action which was in progress when another action interrupted it. We use Past Continuous for the interrupted action and Past Simple for the action which interrupts it.



Linda **was watching** TV when the phone rang.

- to describe the background to the events in a story.

We **were walking** in the woods. It **was raining** hard ...

### Past Simple is used:

- for an action completed at a stated time in the past.

He **finished** his homework at 7 o'clock.

- for actions which happened one after another (sequence of actions).

He **slipped**, **fell over** and **hurt** his ankle.



- with non-continuous verbs: **appear** (=seem), **believe**, **belong**, **cost**, **feel**, **forget**, **hate**, **have** (=possess), **know**, **like**, **love**, **mean**, **need**, **prefer**, **realise**, **remember**, **see**, **seem**, **smell**, **sound**, **suppose**, **taste**, **think**, **understand**, **want**, etc.



Sylvia **saw** Alex at the party yesterday.

- for people who are no longer alive.

Shakespeare **wrote** a lot of plays.  
(Shakespeare is dead. He won't write any more.)

**2** Use the *past continuous* or the *past simple* and the phrases to label the pictures. Then identify the speech situations.

- **action in the middle of happening**
- **simultaneous actions**
- **sequence of actions**
- **completed action**
- **interrupted action**
- **people who are no longer alive**

1 *action in the middle of happening*



(they sleep/at 11 o'clock/yesterday evening)

*They were sleeping at 11 o'clock yesterday evening.*

2



(wash up/feed the dog/an hour ago)

3



(last night/Mrs Smith knit/Mr Smith watch TV)

4



(they sunbathe/start to rain)

5



(Gustave Eiffel/build/the Eiffel Tower)

6



(Claire/have first birthday / 2 days ago)

### Was / Were going to

**Was going to** is used to express fixed arrangements in the past, unfulfilled plans or an action which someone intended to do in the past but didn't do.

He got up early. **He was going to** catch the 6 o'clock train. (fixed arrangement in the past)

She **was going to** travel around Europe but she didn't because she fell ill. (unfulfilled plan)

She **was going to** buy a new car but in the end she repaired her old one. (She intended to buy a car but she didn't.)

## 3 Write what was going to happen but didn't.

catch / bus

have / picnic

buy / dress



1 *She was going to ... buy a dress ... but a thief stole her bag.*

2 *... but he was too late.*

3 *... but it started to rain.*

## 4 Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the past continuous. Then say which uses of these tenses are shown in each extract.

**A** Heath Ledger 1) *was* (be) a very talented Australian actor who 2) *(try)* different kinds of roles. One of the last films he 3) *..... (take)* part in was *The Dark Knight*, where he 4) *..... (play)* the evil Joker. Sadly, he 5) *..... (die)* on January 22nd, 2008 at the age of 28.

**B** It 1) *..... (happen)* at 8 o'clock last night. John and his wife, Jane, 2) *..... (sit)* in their living room. They 3) *..... (watch)* TV while their daughter 4) *..... (play)* with her toys. Suddenly, the room 5) *..... (start)* to shake and two vases 6) *..... (fall)* to the ground.

## 5 Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the past continuous.

1 A: I *..... (was/walking)*. (walk) home yesterday when I *..... (ran/ran into)* ... (run into) Jennifer.  
 B: Is she OK? I haven't seen her for such a long time.

2 A: What *..... (happened)* to your leg?  
 B: I *..... (broke)* it while I *..... (was/ski)*.

3 A: I *..... (called)* you yesterday morning but you *..... (wasn't)* at home.  
 B: Yes. I *..... (walked)* my dog.

### Used to – Be/Get Used to + noun / pronoun / -ing

**Used to** is used to talk about past habits. It has the same form in all persons, singular and plural. It forms its negative and interrogative form with **did**.

I used to cry when I was a baby.  
I didn't use to sleep late.  
Did you use to sleep late?

**Be/Get used to** is used to talk about habitual actions and means 'be/get accustomed to', 'be in the habit of'.

I'm not used to getting up early.  
They are used to cold weather.  
You'll get used to her when you get to know her better.

### 6 Rewrite Victoria's comments using **used to** or **didn't use to** as in the example:



1 Victoria used to work long hours.

2

3

4

5

6

### 7 Complete the sentences with the correct form of **used to**, **be/get used to** and the verbs in brackets.

- 1 Lisa is very tired this morning. She ... **isn't used to staying up** ... (not/stay up) late.
- 2 Don't worry. You ... **soon** ... (wear) contact lenses.
- 3 He ... **eat** a lot of chocolate when he was a child.
- 4 They didn't like living near the airport but they ... **it**.
- 5 I ... **(get up)** at 6:30 am, so it doesn't bother me.
- 6 Sheila lives in the city but she still ... **(not)** all the noise.

8 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past continuous* or the *past simple*.

Last night I 1) ... **had** ... (have) a wonderful dream. This is what I 2) ..... (dream). We 3) ..... (take) a trip to Hawaii. I 4) ..... (be) with my family and two of my friends. We 5) ..... (be) on a ship and we 6) ..... (travel) to Honolulu. On the ship there 7) ..... (be) a party. We 8) ..... (sit) on nice comfortable seats and we 9) ..... (drink) exotic juices. Lots of people 10) ..... (dance) and the music 11) .....

(play) loudly. We 12) ..... (have) a lot of fun! When the ship 13) ..... (arrive) in Honolulu, a man 14) ..... (wait) to take us to our hotel. The hotel where we 15) ..... (stay) was by a beach lined with palm trees. Drums 16) ..... (beat) and people on the beach 17) ..... (sing) and 18) ..... (dance) to the music. The music 19) ..... (get) louder and louder until I 20) ..... (hear) a ringing sound. It 21) ..... (be) my alarm clock! It 22) ..... (be) 7 o'clock and time to get up for school.

## 9 Circle the mistake (A or B), then correct it.

1 While we were having a picnic, it was starting to rain. .... *started*...  
 A B

2 Alicia was painting a picture when her mum was cooking. ....  
 A B

3 Laura was taking off her coat and sat down. ....  
 A B

4 While we were on holiday, we were spending most of our time sightseeing. ....  
 A B

5 Costas listened to his iPod, so he didn't hear the doorbell ring. ....  
 A B