

# I was doing (past continuous) and I did (past simple)

A



Jack was reading a book.



The phone rang.



He stopped reading.



He answered the phone.

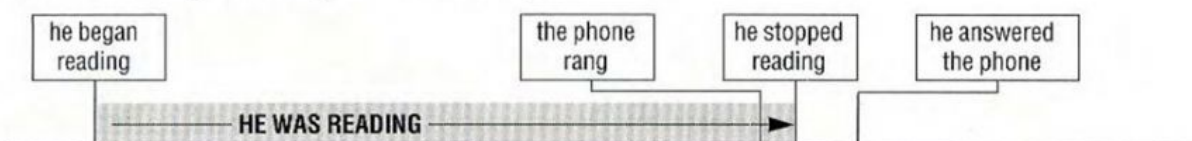
What **happened**? The phone **rang**. (*past simple*)

What **was** Jack **doing** when the phone rang? } (*past continuous*)  
He **was reading** a book.

What **did** he **do** when the phone rang? } (*past simple*)  
He **stopped** reading and **answered** the phone.

Jack began reading *before* the phone rang.

So: **When** the phone rang, he **was reading**.



B

*past simple*

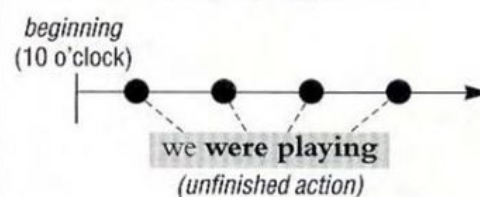
- A: What **did** you **do** yesterday morning?
- B: We **played** tennis. (from 10 to 11.30)



- Jack **read** a book yesterday. (= from beginning to end)
- **Did** you **watch** the film on television last night?
- It **didn't rain** while we were on holiday.

*past continuous*

- A: What **were** you **doing** at 10.30?
- B: We **were playing** tennis.



- Jack **was reading** a book when the phone rang.
- **Were** you **watching** television when I phoned you?
- It **wasn't raining** when I got up.

- I **started** work at 9 o'clock and **finished** at 4.30. At 2.30 I **was working**.
- It **was raining** when we **went** out. (= it started raining *before* we went out)
- I **saw** Lucy and Steve this morning. They **were waiting** at the bus stop.
- Jenny **fell** asleep while she **was reading**.