

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

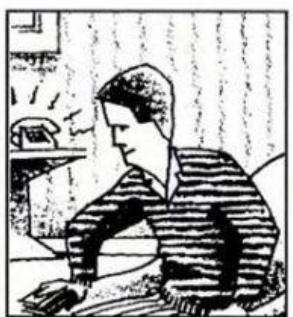
A



Jack was reading a book.



The phone rang.



He stopped reading.



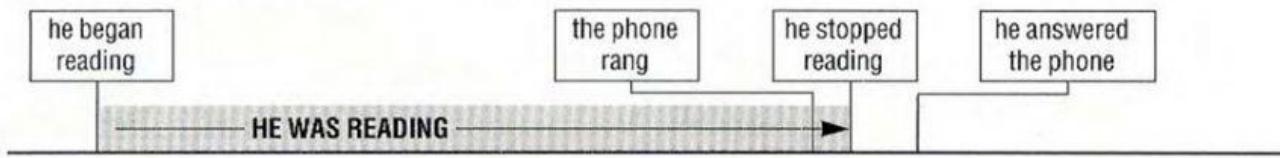
He answered the phone.

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.

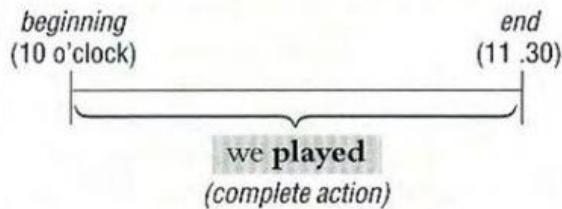
So: When the phone rang, he was reading.



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.