

# 1 Language focus

**A** A talk-show host interviews a teen who survived an avalanche. Listen and practice.

**Host** So, David, you survived the biggest avalanche in ten years! We're glad that you're here.

**David** Thanks.

**Host** I'd like to ask you some questions. First, what were you doing on Cannon Mountain?

**David** We were skiing on the north side of the mountain. It has the best snow.

**Host** Was it snowing that day?

**David** No, it wasn't. Actually, it was very sunny.

**Host** Who were you skiing with?

**David** I was skiing with my family – my parents and my sister.

**Host** Were many other people skiing?

**David** No. We were the only ones.

## Past continuous questions

### Yes / No questions

**Was it snowing?**

Yes, it was.

No, it wasn't.

**Were other people skiing?**

Yes, they were.

No, they weren't.

### Wh- questions

**What were you doing?**

We were skiing.

**Who were you skiing with?**

I was skiing with my family.

My family.

**B** Complete the interview questions. Then listen and check.

**Host** What were you doing (do) when the avalanche hit?

**David** My father and I were climbing up the trail.

**Host** \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) your skis?

**David** Yes, we were.

**Host** Where \_\_\_\_\_ your mother and sister \_\_\_\_\_ (walk)?

**David** They were walking behind us, lower down the trail. They saw the avalanche first and started shouting.


**Host** What \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ (shout)?

**David** They were shouting, "Go right! Go right!" I looked, and I saw the snow coming down the mountain.

**Host** \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ (come) down the mountain very quickly?

**David** Yes, it was. It was coming really fast. We moved to the right – just in time.



-  **C** Marilyn was on a frozen lake last winter when the ice cracked. A talk-show host is asking her questions. Read her answers and write his questions. Then listen and check.



1. **Q:** (What) What were you doing on the lake?  
**A:** I was skating on it.
2. **Q:** (Were) \_\_\_\_\_  
**A:** No, I wasn't skating alone.
3. **Q:** (Who) \_\_\_\_\_  
**A:** I was skating with my friend, Sarah. My father and brother were near the lake, too.
4. **Q:** (What) \_\_\_\_\_  
**A:** They were throwing snowballs at each other.
5. **Q:** (Was) \_\_\_\_\_  
**A:** No, it wasn't snowing, but it was really cold.
6. **Q:** (Where) \_\_\_\_\_  
**A:** Sarah was skating on the other side of the lake. But she saw me fall in, and she screamed loudly. My father found a rope and pulled me out. I'm lucky to be alive!

## 2 Speaking

Imagine a bad experience. Use an idea from the box or your own idea. Your classmates ask questions about it, using the past continuous.

**You** I broke my arm.

**Classmate 1** What were you doing when you broke it?

**You** I was playing basketball.

**Classmate 2** Were you shooting the ball?

**You** No. I was running.

**Classmate 3** Where were you playing?

**You** I was playing in the gym.

**Classmate 4** Who were you playing with?

**You** Trish and Carmen.

**The electricity went out.**

**I broke my arm.**

**A bad storm hit my town.**

**My computer crashed.**

**I broke my leg.**

**A woman on a bicycle  
ran into me.**