

Name: Class: Date: Teacher: Helena Inácio

Self-check: not yet: ☐ ok: ☐ outstanding: ☐

I Read the grammar guide carefully. Match the rules on the left with the examples on the right.

USE

It's used to talk about **an action in progress at a specific time in the past.**



1

We often use this tense to talk about **two simultaneous actions.**



2

FORM

was/were + verb-ing

Affirmative:

Ex: He was watching TV.

Negative:

Ex: I wasn't playing games.

Interrogative:

Ex: Were you sleeping when I called?



SPELLING

1 Final **e** is dropped
come ⇒ coming

2 final consonant is doubled
after a short, stressed vowel
or **consonant + vowel + cons.**
sit ⇒ sitting

3 words ending in **x, w, y** do
not double final consonant

4 **L** as final consonant after a
vowel is doubled
travel ⇒ travelling

4 final **ie** becomes **y**
lie ⇒ lying



**SIGNAL
WORDS**

Examples:

while; when; as; last night;
yesterday evening; all day;
last winter; yesterday at five
o'clock ...



Yesterday there was a break in near the dolphin's pool. I need to ask you: what were you doing **yesterday at five o'clock?**

We **were taking** photos for our facebook profile.



I **was cleaning** the pool **while** the piranhas **were waiting** for their dinner. It didn't go as planned! Oh dear!



We **were playing** with the dolphins. Really! They loved it!



II Write the -ing form of the verbs. Pay attention to the exceptions!

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1 sleep | 5 fix |
| 2 have | 6 sit |
| 3 visit | 7 study |
| 4 swim | 8 watch |

III Complete with WAS or WERE.

- My sister _____ cooking noodles for dinner.
- You _____ doing your homework last night.
- I _____ watching the new police drama yesterday evening.
- The students _____ answering a questionnaire.
- The children _____ swimming in the lake.
- My cats _____ trying to catch a fly. They failed.
- _____ the maths test difficult?
- _____ you impressed with latest Harry Potter book?

IV Choose the correct option.

- Was the nurse working **today / last week?**
- I **wasn't waiting / wasn't waiting** for a taxi all morning.
- Was/were** my dad feeding the cats yesterday morning?
- The girls **were sending / was sending** messages to their friends.
- My brother **was driving / was driveing** home.
- My pussy cat Sheila **was chasing / was chaseing** some birds.

V Complete the sentences. Use the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 _____ the plane _____ (fly) to Paris when it crashed? No, it wasn't.
- 2 The students _____ (wait) for the bus when it started to rain.
- 3 We _____ (cross) the street when the traffic lights turned red.
- 4 The children _____ (play) games when their mother called them.
- 5 Sue _____ (wash) the dishes when the phone rang.
- 6 My father _____ (not/cook) lunch when I got home. He was watching TV.
- 7 Mary _____ (slice) the bread when she cut her hand.
- 8 My brother _____ (jump) on the bed when my mum walked in.

VI Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verb in brackets. Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.

- 1 I _____ (have) a shower
- 2 I _____ (chat) to my neighbour
- 3 We _____ (sleep)
- 4 Kim _____ (watch) TV
- 5 The thief _____ (break in)
- 6 I _____ (cook) pizza

when

- a) the doorbell rang.
- b) the power went out.
- c) the alarm rang.
- d) I noticed I didn't have any flour.
- e) my mobile rang.
- f) I saw a dog biting the postman.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 **a)** 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

VII Complete the sentences about the comic strip with the past continuous.



It was a lovely day and the bugs 1 _____ (have) fun when they heard someone coming.

It was that annoying fat cat, again. The spider decided to face him but Garfield didn't say anything.

What 2 _____ Garfield _____ (think)? The fly decided to leave; the spider 3 _____ (plan) an exit strategy.

But, while the spider 4 _____ (wait) for his response, Garfield took an old newspaper and squished the spider. The fly returned to check on the spider but it 5 _____ (not/feel) very fit.

Oh dear! What a disaster!