

# 14 Happy memories

The past continuous  
Dates and was born  
On and in

## The past continuous

Were you **going** abroad in that photo, Grandpa?

Yes, I was. I was on a train. I **was travelling** abroad for the first time.

We use the past continuous to talk about an action that was in progress at a certain time in the past.

We form the past continuous with **was/were** + past participle. For negative sentences, use **wasn't/weren't**. For questions, we use **was/were** + subject + past participle.

*I was walking slowly.*

*Holly wasn't listening to her MP3 player.*

*Were you making dinner? Yes, I was. / No, I wasn't.*

See page 78 for formation of the -ing form.

### 1 Complete the sentences. Use the verb in brackets and the present continuous.

- 1 Judy was making (make) dinner.
- 2 Amy and Zoe weren't watching (not watch) a film at the cinema.
- 3 It was raining (rain) very heavily.
- 4 You and Jack weren't waiting (not wait) at the bus stop.
- 5 I was feeling (feel) very cold.
- 6 You wasn't tidying (tidy) your room.
- 7 The traffic was moving (move) very slowly.
- 8 William wasn't sending (not send) an email to Jamie.
- 9 Oscar and I were talking (talk) about the football match.

2 Look at the pictures. Write a negative sentence and an affirmative sentence. Use the past continuous.



Lewis and Gary / wait / at the bus stop

Lewis and Gary weren't waiting at the bus stop.

They were waiting at the cinema.



Dad / clean / the house



Mum and Sophy / make coffee



Jess / write a letter



the boys / play tennis

3 Look at exercise 2. Write questions and short answers.

1 Lewis and Gary / wait / at the bus stop

Were Lewis and Gary waiting at the bus stop? No, they weren't.

2 Dad / clean / the car

3 Mum and Sophy / make / dinner

4 Jess / write / a letter

5 the boys / play / basketball