Past continuous: affirmative and negative

Affirmative	Negative
I / He / She / It was travelling.	I / He / She / It was not (wasn't) travelling.
You / We / They were travelling.	You / We / They were not (weren't) travelling.

- We use the past continuous to talk about actions in progress at a specific time in the past, or actions interrupted by another action.
  We were doing homework at 5 pm yesterday.
  Chloe was reading when James texted her.
- We form affirmative sentences with **subject** + ***was/were*** + **verb** + ***-ing***.
  He was walking to school.
- To form the negative, we put ***n't*** (***not***) after ***was/were*** and before the **verb** + ***-ing***. ***Not*** is usually contracted.
  They weren't listening to the teacher.

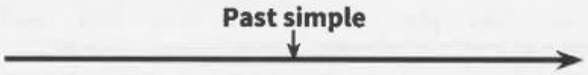
Past continuous: questions

Question	Short answer
Was I / he / she / it travelling?	Yes, I / he / she / it was. No, I / he / she / it wasn't.
Were you / we / they travelling?	Yes, you / we / they were. No, you / we / they weren't.

- We form questions with ***Was/Were*** + **subject** + **verb** + ***-ing***.
  Were you reading in bed last night?
- We don't use **verb** + ***-ing*** in short answers.
  A *Was he chatting online?*
  B *Yes, he was.* (NOT ~~*Yes, he was chatting.*~~)
- For information questions, we put the ***Wh-*** question word before ***be***.
  What were you doing this morning?

Past simple and past continuous

- We often use the past simple and past continuous together. We use the past simple for shorter actions which interrupt longer actions in the past continuous.



I was cycling to school when I saw Lily.
He was walking through the park when he fell and hurt his knee.

- We often use ***when***, ***while*** and ***as*** with the past continuous.
  Their computer broke when they were studying.
  While she was having breakfast, she got a text from Madeline.
  As we were leaving the party, Lucas arrived.
- We use ***when*** with the past simple for shorter actions.
  When I saw Tom, he was arguing with Adele in the street.
  (NOT ~~*While I saw Tom ...*~~)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LANGUAGE PRACTICE

past continuous: affirmative and negative

1 **Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs in the box.**

chat get have hide ~~play~~ watch

At 5 pm yesterday afternoon …

1 Peter *was playing* the piano.
2 Jack _____ a shower.
3 Rosie and Dan _____ to friends.
4 We _____ a drama series on TV.
5 My sister _____ dressed.
6 The children _____ under the bed!

2 **Complete the sentences with the negative past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.**

1 Peter *wasn't playing* football. (play)
2 Jack _____ emails. (write)
3 Rosie and Dan _____ in the garden. (sit)
4 We _____ our bikes. (ride)
5 I _____ a sandwich. (eat)
6 The children _____ any noise. (make)

Past continuous: questions

3 **Write questions with the past continuous.**

1 What / you / do / yesterday / ?
What were you doing yesterday?
2 Where / they / go / last night / ?
_____
3 Who / she / talk to / ?
_____
4 Why / he / laugh / at me / ?
_____
5 Where / you and your mum / stay / ?
_____
6 What / your / friends / say / ?
_____

4 **Circle the correct options.**

1 A Was he reading the story?
B Yes, he (was) / were.
2 A Were they playing football at 4 pm?
B No, they *was* / *weren't*.
3 A Were you talking on the phone to your friend at 10 pm last night?
B No, I *wasn't* / *weren't*.
4 A Was your mum making breakfast at 7 am?
B Yes, she *was* / *were*.
5 A Were you watching TV at 9 pm yesterday?
B Yes, we *was* / *were*.
6 A Was Susan doing her homework at 6 pm?
B Yes, she *was* / *were*.

Past simple and past continuous

5 **Complete each sentence with the past simple or the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.**

1 While we *were walking* (walk) home we *saw* (see) eight or nine cats crossing the road!
2 He _____ (go) to bed when the phone _____ (ring).
3 I _____ (fall) over while I _____ (walk) to school.
4 When I _____ (arrive) home, my dad _____ (dance) in the kitchen!
5 In the story, the man _____ (steal) the money when the police _____ (arrive).
6 While I _____ (chat) online, my mum _____ (come) into my room to turn the light off.

6 **Complete the story with the past simple or the past continuous form of the verbs in brackets.**

I [1] *was getting* (get) into bed last night when I [2] _____ (see) a light in the garden. While I [3] _____ (go) downstairs, I [4] _____ (hear) someone at the door! I [5] _____ (try) to close the door when my dad [6] _____ (shout), 'Let me in! It's me, your dad!'

LIVEWORKSHEETS