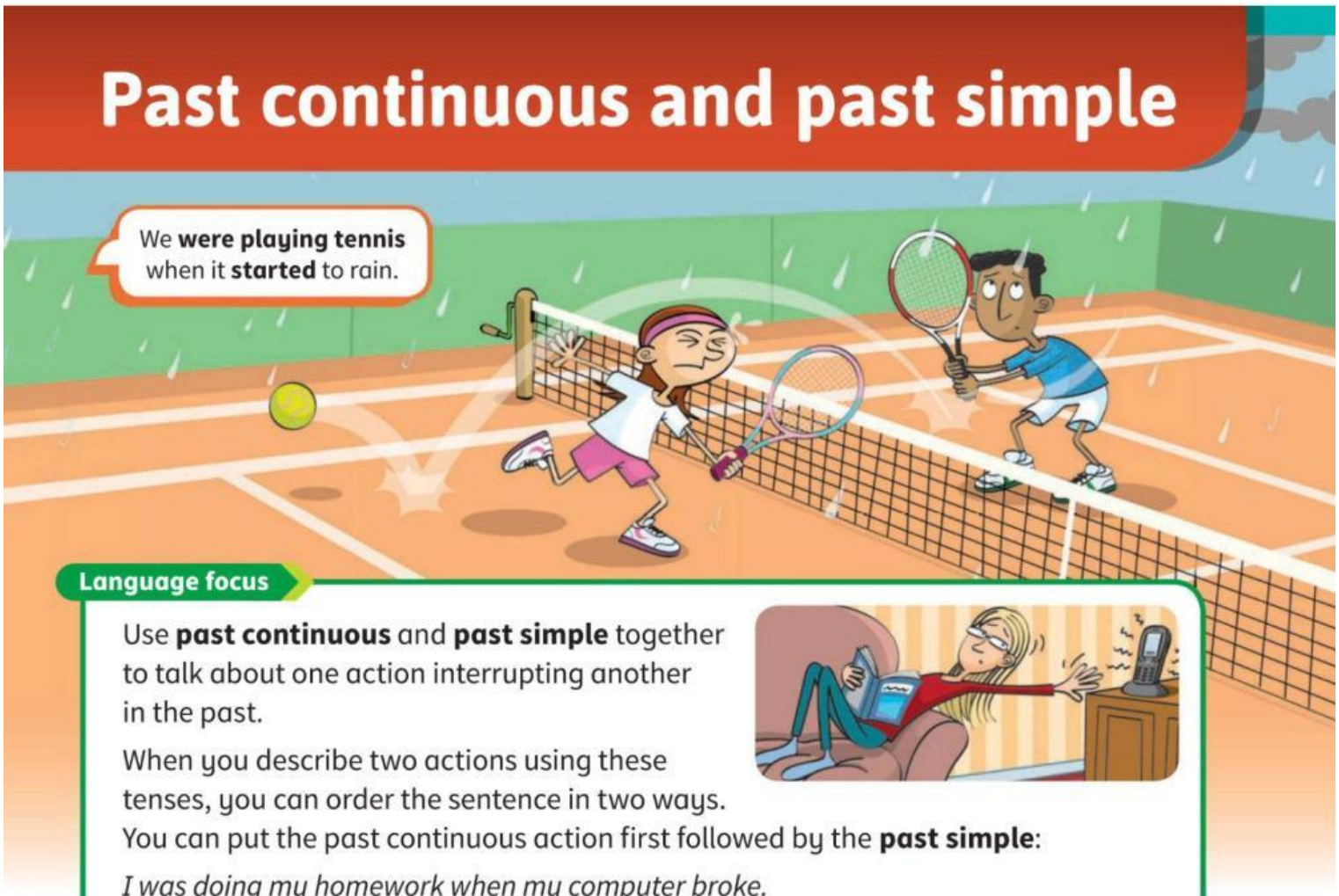
Past continuous and past simple



Language focus

Use **past continuous** and **past simple** together to talk about one action interrupting another in the past.

When you describe two actions using these tenses, you can order the sentence in two ways.
You can put the past continuous action first followed by the **past simple**:

I was doing my homework when my computer broke.

You can also put the **past simple** first followed by the **past continuous**. When you write the sentence in this way, use a comma.

When my computer broke, I was doing my homework.

1 **Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs from the box. Use either the past continuous or past simple.**

meet play ~~wait~~ do fall begin

1 I was waiting for the train when I saw my friend.
2 When my brother came home, I _____ my homework.
3 We were playing football when it _____ to snow.
4 Mum was living in Ankara when she _____ Dad.
5 My brother _____ basketball when he broke his leg.
6 My sister was doing her Geography homework when she _____ asleep.

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2 **Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.**

1 When I *bumped* / *was bumping* into the tree, I was running after the football.
2 I *watched* / *was watching* TV when you called me.
3 When we *were seeing* / *saw* Miss Gunn, the History teacher, we were waiting for a train.
4 We *were sunbathing* / *sunbathed* when it started to rain. We ran into a café nearby to stay dry!
5 My dad was walking down the street when he *was finding* / *found* the bag.
6 My brother was making a salad for lunch when he *cut* / *was cutting* his finger.

3 **Write the underlined verbs in the story in the past simple or past continuous.**



I (1) am walking through the park on my way home from town when I (2) see a large bear standing in front of me. It (3) is playing the violin. 'Good afternoon,' (4) says the bear. 'Oh,' I (5) say, 'good afternoon.' I (6) am thinking of starting to run when the bear (7) says, 'I'm not a real bear, you know. This is just a special suit. I'm playing at a children's party later.' The bear (8) wants to do a bit of practice before the show. I (9) listen for a while. She (10) isn't bad, for a bear.

1 was walking
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____
8 _____
9 _____
10 _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS