Unit 1

Present Continuous (I am doing)

A

Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work.
She**'s driving** to work. (= She **is driving** ...)

This means: she is driving *now*, at the time of speaking.
The action is not finished.



am/is/are + **-ing** is the *present continuous*:

I	**am**	(= I'**m**)	**driving**
he/she/it	**is**	(= he'**s**, etc.)	**working**
we/you/they	**are**	(= we'**re**, etc.)	**doing**, etc.

B

I am doing something = I started doing it, and I haven't finished. I'm in the middle of doing it.

- Please don't make so much noise. I'**m trying** to work. (*not* I try)
- "Where's Mark?" "He'**s taking** a shower." (*not* He takes a shower)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** anymore. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- How's your new job? **Are** you **enjoying** it?
- What's all that noise? What'**s going** on? *or* What'**s happening**?

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



Steve says "I'm reading ..." but he is *not* reading the book at the time of speaking.
He means that he has started reading the book but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she'**s learning** Italian.
  (but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking)
- Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

C

You can use the present continuous with **today**, **this week**, **this year**, etc. (periods around now):

- A: You'**re working** hard **today**. (*not* You work hard today)
  B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way:

getting	**changing**	**increasing**	**rising**	**starting**
becoming	**improving**	**growing**	**falling**	**beginning**

- Is your English **getting** better? (*not* Does your English get better)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I'**m starting** to enjoy it now. (*not* I start)

Present Continuous and Simple Present → Units 3–4 Present Tenses with a Future Meaning → Unit 18

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

1.1 What's happening in the pictures? Choose from these verbs:

cross hide scratch ~~take~~ tie wave



1 She's taking a picture.
2 He _____ his shoelaces.
3 _____ the road.
4 _____ his head.
5 _____ behind a tree.
6 _____ to somebody.

1.2 The sentences on the right follow those on the left. Which sentence goes with which?

1 Please don't make so much noise.	a I'm getting hungry.	1 f
2 We need to leave soon.	b They're lying.	2 _____
3 I don't have anywhere to live right now.	c It's starting to rain.	3 _____
4 I need to eat something soon.	d They're trying to sell it.	4 _____
5 They don't need their car anymore.	e It's getting late.	5 _____
6 Things are not so good at work.	~~f I'm trying to work.~~	6 _____
7 What they say isn't true.	g I'm staying with friends.	7 _____
8 We're going to get wet.	h The company is losing money.	8 _____

1.3 Write questions. Use the present continuous.

1 What's all that noise? What's happening? (what / happen?)
2 What's the matter? _____ (why / you / cry?)
3 Where's your mother? _____ (she / work / today?)
4 I haven't seen you in ages. _____ (what / you / do / these days?)
5 Amy is a student. _____ (what / she / study?)
6 Who are those people? _____ (what / they / do?)
7 I heard you started a new job. _____ (you / enjoy / it?)
8 We're not in a hurry. _____ (why / you / walk / so fast?)

1.4 Put the verb into the correct form, affirmative (**I'm doing**, etc.) or negative (**I'm not doing**, etc.).

1 Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying (I / try) to work.
2 Let's go out now. It isn't raining (it / rain) anymore.
3 You can turn off the music. _____ (I / listen) to it.
4 Kate called last night. She's on a trip with friends. _____ (She / have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.
5 Andrew started evening classes recently. _____ (He / learn) Japanese.
6 Jason and Sarah have had an argument and now _____ (they / speak) to each other.
7 The situation is already very bad, and now _____ (it / get) worse.
8 Tim _____ (work) today. He's taken the day off.
9 _____ (I / look) for Allison. Do you know where she is?
10 The washing machine has been repaired. _____ (It / work) now.
11 _____ (They / build) a new hospital. It will be finished next year.
12 Ben is a student, but he's not very happy. _____ (He / enjoy) his courses.
13 _____ (The weather / change). I think it's going to rain.
14 Dan has been in the same job for a long time. _____ (He / start) to get bored with it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 2

Simple Present (I do)

A

Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is asleep in bed. He is not driving a bus. (He is asleep.)

but He **drives** a bus. (He is a bus driver.)

drive(s), **work(s)**, **do(es)**, etc., is the *simple present*:

I/we/you/they	**drive/work/do**, etc.
he/she/it	**drives/works/does**, etc.

B

We use the simple present to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general:

- Nurses **take** care of patients in hospitals.
- I usually **leave** for work at 8 a.m.
- The earth **goes** around the sun.
- The coffee shop **opens** at 7:30 in the morning.

We say:

I **work**	*but*	he **works**	you **go**	*but*	it **goes**
they **teach**	*but*	my sister **teaches**	I **have**	*but*	he **has**

For spelling (**-s** or **-es**), see Appendix 6.

C

We use **do/does** to make questions and negative sentences:

do / **does**	I/we/you/they / he/she/it	**work**? / **drive**? / **do**?

I/we/you/they / he/she/it	**don't** / **doesn't**	**work** / **drive** / **do**

- I come from Japan. Where **do** you **come** from?
- **I don't travel** a lot.
- What **does** this word **mean**? (*not* What means this word?)
- Rice **doesn't grow** in cold climates.

In the following examples, **do** is also the main verb (do you **do** / doesn't **do**, etc.):

- "What **do** you **do**?" "I work in a store."
- He's always so lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help us.

D

We use the simple present to say how often we do things:

- **I get** up at 8:00 **every morning**.
- **How often** do you **go** to the dentist?
- Julia **doesn't drink** coffee **very often**.
- Michael usually **plays** tennis two or three times a week.

E

I promise / **I apologize**, etc.

Sometimes we do things by saying something. For example, when you promise to do something, you can say "**I promise** ..."; when you suggest something, you can say "**I suggest** ...":

- **I promise** I won't be late.
- "What do **you suggest** I do?" "**I suggest** that you ..."

In the same way we say: **I agree** ... / **I advise** ... / **I insist** ... / **I refuse** ... / **I suppose** ... , etc.

Simple Present and Present Continuous → Units 3–4 Present Tenses with a Future Meaning → Unit 18

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s) **close(s)** **connect(s)** **go(es)** **live(s)** ~~**speak(s)**~~ **take(s)**

1 Tanya speaks German very well.
2 Ben and Jack _____ to the same school.
3 Bad driving _____ many accidents.
4 The museum _____ at 4:00 on Sundays.
5 My parents _____ in a very small apartment.
6 The Olympics _____ place every four years.
7 The Panama Canal _____ the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

2.2 Put the verb into the correct form.

1 Julia doesn't drink (not / drink) coffee very often.
2 What time _____ (the banks / close) here?
3 I have a car, but I _____ (not / use) it very much.
4 Where _____ (Maria / come) from? Is she Colombian?
5 "What _____ (you / do)?" "I'm an electrician."
6 Look at this sentence. What _____ (this word / mean)?
7 David isn't in very good shape. He _____ (not / get) any exercise.
8 It _____ (take) me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long _____ (it / take) you?

2.3 Complete the sentences using these verbs. Sometimes you need the negative.

believe **eat** **flow** ~~**go**~~ ~~**grow**~~ **make** **rise** **tell** **translate**

1 The earth goes around the sun.
2 Rice doesn't grow in cold climates.
3 The sun _____ in the east.
4 Bees _____ honey.
5 Vegetarians _____ meat.
6 An atheist _____ in God.
7 An interpreter _____ from one language into another.
8 Liars are people who _____ the truth.
9 The Amazon River _____ into the Atlantic Ocean.

2.4 You ask Emily questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

1 You know that Emily plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.
How often do you play tennis ?
2 Perhaps Emily's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask Emily.
_____ your sister _____?
3 You know that Emily goes to the movies a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.
_____?
4 You know that Emily's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Emily.
_____?
5 You're not sure if Emily speaks Spanish. You want to know. Ask her.
_____?
6 You don't know where Emily's grandparents live. You want to know. Ask Emily.
_____?

2.5 Complete using the following:

I agree **I apologize** **I insist** **I promise** **I recommend** ~~**I suggest**~~

1 Mr. Evans is not in the office today. I suggest you try calling him tomorrow.
2 I won't tell anybody what you said. _____.
3 (*in a restaurant*) You must let me pay for the meal. _____.
4 _____ for what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
5 The new restaurant on Lake Street is very good. _____ it.
6 I think you're absolutely right. _____ with you.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 3

Present Continuous and Simple Present 1 (I am doing and I do)

A

Compare:

Present continuous (**I am doing**)

We use the *continuous* for things happening at or around the time of speaking.
The action is not complete.

I am doing

past *now* *future*

- ☐ The water **is boiling**. Be careful.
- ☐ Listen to those people. What language **are** they **speaking**?
- ☐ Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- ☐ "I'm busy." "What **are** you **doing**?"
- ☐ I'**m getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- ☐ Kate wants to work in Italy, so she'**s learning** Italian.
- ☐ The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.

We use the *continuous* for *temporary* situations (things that continue for a short time):

- ☐ I'**m living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- ☐ A: You'**re working** hard today.
  B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

See Unit 1 for more information.

Simple present (**I do**)

We use the *simple* for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

I do

past *now* *future*

- ☐ Water **boils** at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ☐ Excuse me, **do** you **speak** English?

- ☐ It **doesn't rain** very much in the summer.
- ☐ What **do** you usually **do** on weekends?
- ☐ I always **get** hungry in the afternoon.
- ☐ Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.
- ☐ Every day the population of the world **increases** by about 200,000 people.

We use the *simple* for *permanent* situations (things that continue for a long time):

- ☐ My parents **live** in Vancouver. They have lived there their whole lives.
- ☐ Joe isn't lazy. **He works** hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

B

I always do and **I'm always doing**

I always do something = I do it every time:

- ☐ I **always go** to work by car. (*not* I'm always going)

I'm always doing something = I do it too often or more often than normal. For example:



I'm always losing them = I lose them too often, or more often than normal.

- ☐ Eric is never satisfied. He'**s always complaining** (= he complains too much)
- ☐ You'**re always looking** at your phone. Don't you have anything else to do?

Present Continuous and Simple Present 2 → Unit 4 Present Tenses with a Future Meaning → Unit 18

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

3.1 Are the underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

1 Water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit. OK
2 How often ~~are you going~~ to the cinema? How often do you go
3 Ben tries to find a job, but he hasn't had any luck yet. _____
4 Melissa is calling her mother every day. _____
5 The moon goes around the earth in about 27 days. _____
6 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about? _____
7 What do you do in your spare time? _____
8 Sarah is a vegetarian. She doesn't eat meat. _____
9 I must go now. It gets late. _____
10 "Come on! It's time to leave." "OK, I come." _____
11 Mike is never late. He's always starting work on time. _____
12 They don't get along well. They're always arguing. _____

3.2 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

1 a I usually get (I / usually / get) hungry in the afternoon.
b I'm getting (I / get) hungry. Let's go and eat something.
2 a "_____ (you / listen) to the radio?" "No, you can turn it off."
b "_____ (you / listen) to the radio a lot?" "No, not very often."
3 a The Nile River _____ (flow) into the Mediterranean.
b The river _____ (flow) very fast today—much faster than usual.
4 a My apartment is a mess. _____ (I / not / do) the housework very often.
b What _____ (you / usually / do) on weekends?
5 a Rachel is in New York right now. _____ (She / stay) at the Park Hotel.
b _____ (She / always / stay) there when she's in New York.

3.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

1 Why are all these people here? What's happening (What / happen)?
2 Julia is good at languages. _____ (She / speak) four languages very well.
3 Are you ready yet? _____ (Everybody / wait) for you.
4 I've never heard this word. How _____ (you / pronounce) it?
5 Kate _____ (not / work) this week. She's on vacation.
6 I think my English _____ (improve) slowly. It's better than it was.
7 Nicole _____ (live) in Dallas. She has never lived anywhere else.
8 Can we stop walking soon? _____ (I / start) to get tired.
9 Sam and Natalie are in Madrid right now. _____ (They / visit) a friend of theirs.
10 "What _____ (your father / do)?" "He's an architect."
11 It took me an hour to get to work this morning. Most days _____ (it / not / take) so long.
12 I _____ (I / learn) to drive. My driving test is next month. My father _____ (teach) me.

3.4 Finish B's sentences. Use **always -ing**.

1 A: I lost my keys again.
B: Not again! You're always losing your keys.
2 A: The car broke down again.
B: That car is useless. It _____.
3 A: Look! You made the same mistake again.
B: Oh no, not again! I _____.
4 A: Oh, I left my phone at home again.
B: Typical! _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 4

Present Continuous and Simple Present 2 (I am doing and I do)

A

We use continuous forms (**I'm waiting**, **it's raining**, etc.) for actions and events that have started but haven't finished. Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in this way. We don't say "I am knowing" or "they are liking." We say "I **know**" and "they **like**."

The following verbs are not normally used in the present continuous:

like	**want**	**need**	**prefer**	
know	**understand**	**recognize**		
believe	**suppose**	**remember**	**mean**	
belong	**fit**	**contain**	**consist**	**seem**

- I'm hungry. I **want** something to eat. (*not* I'm wanting)
- **Do** you **understand** what I **mean**?
- Anna **doesn't seem** very happy right now.

B

think

When **think** means "believe" or "have an opinion," we do not use the continuous:

- I **think** Mary is Canadian, but I'm not sure. (*not* I'm thinking)
- What **do** you **think** of my idea? (= what is your opinion?)

When **think** means "consider," the continuous is possible:

- I'**m thinking** about what happened. I often **think** about it.
- Nicky **is thinking** of giving up her job. (= she is considering it)

C

see **hear** **smell** **taste** **look** **feel**

We normally use the simple present (not the present continuous) with **see**/**hear**/**smell**/**taste**:

- **Do** you **see** that man over there? (*not* are you seeing)
- The room **smells** bad. Let's open a window.
- This soup **doesn't taste** very good.

You can use the simple present or the present continuous to say how somebody **looks** or **feels** now:

- You **look** well today. *or* You'**re looking** well today.
- How **do** you **feel** now? *or* How **are** you **feeling** now?

but

- I usually **feel** tired in the morning. (*not* I'm usually feeling)

D

am/is/are being

You can say **he's being** ..., **you're being** ..., etc., to say how somebody is behaving *now*:

- I can't understand why he'**s being** so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
  (**being** selfish = behaving selfishly now)
- "The path is icy. Don't slip." "Don't worry. I'**m being** very careful."

Compare:

- He never thinks about other people. He'**s** very selfish.
  (= he is selfish generally, not only now)
- I don't like to take risks. I'**m** a very careful person.

We use **am/is/are being** to say how a person is *behaving* (= doing something they can control) now. It is not usually possible in other situations:

- Sam **is** sick. (*not* is being sick)
- **Are** you tired? (*not* are you being tired)

Present Continuous and Simple Present 1 → Unit 3 **have** → Unit 16
Present Tenses with a Future Meaning → Unit 18

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

4.1 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

1 Are you hungry? Do you want (you / want) something to eat?
2 Alan says he's 90 years old, but nobody _____ (believe) him.
3 She told me her name, but _____ (I / not / remember) it now.
4 Don't put the dictionary away. _____ (I / use) it.
5 Don't put the dictionary away. _____ (I / need) it.
6 Air _____ (consist) mainly of nitrogen and oxygen.
7 Who is that man? What _____ (he / want)?
8 Who is that man? Why _____ (he / look) at us?
9 Who is that man? _____ (you / recognize) him?
10 _____ (I / think) of selling my car. Would you be interested in buying it?
11 I can't make up my mind. What _____ (you / think) I should do?
12 Alex wasn't well earlier, but _____ (he / seem) OK now.

4.2 Use the words in parentheses to make sentences.



4.3 Are the underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

1 Michelle is thinking of giving up her job. OK
2 It's not true. I'm not believing it. I don't believe it.
3 I'm feeling hungry. Is there anything to eat? _____
4 I've never eaten that fruit. What is it tasting like? _____
5 I'm not sure what she does. I think she works in a store. _____
6 Look over there. What are you seeing? _____
7 You're very quiet. What are you thinking about? _____

4.4 Complete the sentences. Use **is/are being** (continuous) or **is/are** (simple).

1 I can't understand why he's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
2 You'll like Andrea when you meet her. She _____ very nice.
3 Sarah _____ very nice to me right now. I wonder why.
4 They _____ very happy. They just got married.
5 You're normally very patient, so why _____ so unreasonable about waiting ten more minutes?
6 Would you like something to eat? _____ hungry?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 5

Simple Past (I did)

A

Study this example:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **was** an Austrian musician and composer. He **lived** from 1756 to 1791. He **started** composing at the age of five and **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. He **was** only 35 years old when he **died**.

lived/started/wrote/was/died are all *simple past*.



B

Very often the simple past ends in **-ed** (*regular* verbs):

- I work in a travel agency now. I **worked** in a department store before.
- They **invited** us to their party, but we **decided** not to go.
- The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- Lauren **passed** her exam because she **studied** very hard.

For spelling (sto**pp**ed, stud**ied**, etc.), see Appendix 6.

But many verbs are *irregular*. The simple past does *not* end in **-ed**. For example:

write → **wrote**
see → **saw**
go → **went**
shut → **shut**

- Mozart **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.
- We **saw** Alice in town a few days ago.
- I **went** to the movies three times last week.
- It was cold, so I **shut** the window.

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

C

In questions and negative sentences we use **did/didn't** + infinitive (**enjoy/see/go**, etc.):

I	enjoy**ed**
she	**saw**
they	**went**

	you	**enjoy**?
did	she	**see**?
	they	**go**?

I		**enjoy**
she	**didn't**	**see**
they		**go**

- I enjoyed the party a lot. **Did** you **enjoy** it?
- How many people **did** they **invite** to the wedding?
- I **didn't buy** anything because I **didn't have** any money.
- "**Did** you **go** out?" "No, I **didn't**."

Sometimes **do** is the main verb in the sentence (**did** ... **do** / **didn't do**). For example:

- What **did** you **do** on the weekend? (*not* What did you on the weekend?)
- I **didn't do** anything. (*not* I didn't anything)

D

The past of **be** (**am/is/are**) is **was/were**:

I/he/she/it	**was/wasn't**
we/you/they	**were/weren't**

was	I/he/she/it?
were	we/you/they?

- **I was** annoyed because **they were** late.
- **Was the weather** good when **you were** on vacation?
- **They weren't** able to come because **they were** so busy.
- **I wasn't** hungry, so I didn't eat anything.
- Did you go out last night, or **were you** too tired?

Simple Past and Past Continuous → Unit 6 Simple Past and Present P[illegible]

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

5.1 Read what Lauren says about a typical working day:



I usually get up at 7:00 and have a big breakfast. I walk to work, which takes me about half an hour. I start work at 8:45. I never have lunch. I finish work at 5:00. I'm always tired when I get home. I usually cook dinner a little later. I don't usually go out. I go to bed at about 11:00, and I always sleep well.

Lauren

Yesterday was a typical working day for Lauren. Write what she did or didn't do yesterday.

1 She got up at 7:00.
2 She _____ a big breakfast.
3 She _____.
4 It _____ to get to work.
5 _____ at 8:45.
6 _____ lunch.
7 _____ at 5:00.
8 _____ tired when _____ home.
9 _____ dinner a little later.
10 _____ out last night.
11 _____ at 11:00.
12 _____ well last night.

5.2 Complete the sentences using the following verbs in the correct form:

buy **catch** **cost** **fall** **hurt** **sell** **spend** **teach** **throw** **write**

1 Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
2 "How did you learn to drive?" "My father _____ me."
3 We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we _____ it.
4 Dave _____ down the stairs this morning and _____ his leg.
5 Joe _____ the ball to Sue, who _____ it.
6 Kate _____ a lot of money yesterday. She _____ a dress which _____ $200.

5.3 You ask James about his trip in the U.S. Write your questions.

1 YOU: Where did you go ?
JAMES: To the U.S. We went on a trip from San Francisco to Denver.
2 YOU: How _____ ? By car?
JAMES: Yes, we rented a car in San Francisco.
3 YOU: It's a long way to drive. How long _____ ?
JAMES: Two weeks, but we stopped at a lot of places on the way.
4 YOU: Where _____ ? In hotels?
JAMES: Yes, small hotels or motels.
5 YOU: _____ ?
JAMES: It was very hot – sometimes too hot.
6 YOU: _____ the Grand Canyon?
JAMES: Of course. It was wonderful.

5.4 Complete the sentences. Put the verb into the correct form, affirmative or negative.

1 It was warm, so I took off my coat. (take)
2 The movie wasn't very good. I didn't enjoy it much. (enjoy)
3 I knew Sarah was busy, so I _____ her. (disturb)
4 We were very tired, so we _____ the party early. (leave)
5 It was hard carrying the bags. They _____ really heavy. (be)
6 The bed was very uncomfortable. I _____ well. (sleep)
7 This watch wasn't expensive. It _____ much. (cost)
8 The window was open, and a bird _____ into the room. (fly)
9 I was in a hurry, so I _____ time to call you. (have)
10 I didn't like the hotel. The room _____ very clean. (be)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 6

Past Continuous (I was doing)

A

Study this example situation:



Yesterday Karen and Joe played tennis. They started at 10:00 and finished at 11:30.
So, at 10:30 they **were playing** tennis.

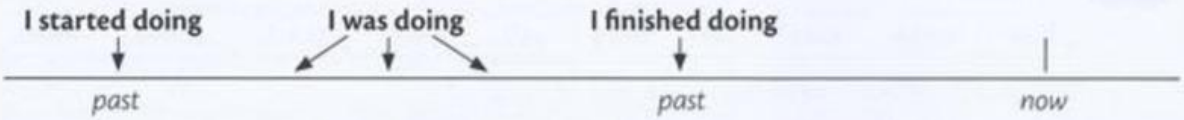
they **were playing** =
they were in the middle of playing, they had not finished

was/were + -ing is the *past continuous*:

he/she/it	**was**	playing doing working, etc.
we/you/they	**were**	

B

I was doing something = I was in the middle of doing it at a certain time. The action or situation started before this time but had not finished:



- This time last year I **was living** in Hong Kong.
- What **were** you **doing** at 10:00 last night?
- I waved to Hannah, but she **wasn't looking**.

C

Compare I **was doing** (*past continuous*) and I **did** (*simple past*):

I **was doing** (= in the middle of an action)
- We were **walking** home when we met Dan. (in the middle of walking home)
- Kate **was watching** TV when we arrived.

I **did** (= complete action)
- We **walked** home after the party last night. (= all the way, completely)
- Kate **watched** TV a lot when she was sick last year.

D

You can say that something **happened** (*simple past*) in the middle of something else (*past continuous*):
- Matt **called** while we **were having** dinner.
- It **was raining** when I **got** up.
- I **saw** you in the park yesterday. You **were sitting** on the grass and **reading** a book.
- I **hurt** my back while I **was working** in the yard.

But we use the *simple past* to say that one thing happened *after* another:
- I **was walking** along the road when I **saw** Dan. So I **stopped**, and we **talked** for a while.

Compare:

- When Karen arrived, we **were having** dinner. (= we had already started before she arrived)
- When Karen arrived, we **had** dinner. (= Karen arrived, and then we had dinner)

E

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **want**) are not normally used in *continuous* forms (**is + -ing**, **was + -ing**, etc.). See Unit 4A for a list of these verbs.
- We were good friends. We **knew** each other well. (*not* we were knowing)
- I was enjoying the party, but Chris **wanted** to go home. (*not* was wanting)

Simple Past (**I did**) → Unit 5

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

6.1 Complete the sentences. Choose from:

was looking	~~was wearing~~	wasn't listening	weren't looking
was snowing	was working	were sitting	were you going

1 Today Hannah is wearing a skirt. Yesterday she was wearing pants.
2 "What did he say?" "I don't know. I _____."
3 We _____ in the back of the theater. We couldn't hear very well.
4 This time last year John _____ on a farm.
5 They didn't see me. They _____ in my direction.
6 The weather was bad. It was very cold, and it _____.
7 I saw you in your car. Where _____?
8 I saw Kate a few minutes ago. She _____ for you.

6.2 Which goes with which?

1 When I got to the cafe,	a when she was living in Rome.	1	f
2 We fell asleep	b she was working in a clothing store.	2	
3 Amy learned Italian	c when I was driving home.	3	
4 Tom didn't come out with us	d but nobody was watching it.	4	
5 The car began to make a strange noise	e while we were watching a movie.	5	
6 The TV was on,	f ~~my friends were waiting for me.~~	6	
7 When I first met Jessica,	g because he wasn't feeling well.	7	

6.3 Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or simple past.



I saw (see) Sue downtown yesterday, but she _____ (not/see) me. She _____ (look) the other way.



I _____ (ride) my bike home yesterday when a man _____ (step) out into the road in front of me. I _____ (go) pretty fast, but luckily I _____ (manage) to stop in time, and I _____ (not/hit) him.

6.4 Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or simple past.

1 Jen was waiting (wait) for me when I arrived (arrive).
2 "What _____ (you/do) at this time yesterday?" "I was asleep."
3 "_____ (you/go) out last night?" "No, I was too tired."
4 How fast _____ (you/drive) when the accident _____ (happen)?
5 Sam _____ (take) a picture of me while I _____ (not/look).
6 We were in a very difficult position. We _____ (not/know) what to do, so we _____ (do) nothing.
7 I haven't seen Josh for ages. When I last _____ (see) him, he _____ (try) to find a job.
8 I _____ (walk) along the street when suddenly I _____ (hear) something behind me. Somebody _____ (follow) me. I was scared, and I _____ (start) to run.
9 When I was young, I _____ (want) to be a pilot. Later I _____ (change) my mind.
10 Last night I _____ (drop) a plate when I _____ (do) the dishes. Fortunately, it _____ (not/break).

→ Additional Exercise 1 (page 296)

LIVEWORKSHEETS