

1 Look at the example sentences from the text. Find and underline all the verbs in the sentences. Which verbs are past simple and which verbs are past continuous?

- a** Gary was building everything for their new home, while Paula was working.
- b** They were looking at homes on the internet one day, when Tim, Gary's dad, had an idea.
- c** Finally, Gary finished the work on the lorry and they moved in.

2 Match i–iii to sentences a–c in Exercise 1.

- i One action follows the other.
 - ii The actions are happening at the same time.
 - iii One action interrupts the other.
- a Gary was building everything for their new home, while Paula was working.
 - b They were looking at homes on the internet one day, when Tim, Gary's dad, had an idea.
 - c Finally, Gary finished the work on the lorry and they moved in.

3 Choose the correct words to complete the sentence.

To form the past continuous, we use the *present / past* simple of the verb *be* and the *present / past* participle.

Past continuous

Spelling: -ing form

Positive	I / He / She / It was eating a sandwich. You / We / They were standing on the balcony.
Negative	I / He / She / It wasn't working in the garden. You / We / They weren't reading a book.
Questions	Was I / he / she / it building some cupboards? Were you / we / they painting the gate?
Short answers	Yes, I / he / she / it was . No, he / she / it wasn't . Yes, you / we / they were . No, you / we / they weren't .

Most verbs add -ing	<i>playing, going, learning</i>
verbs ending in -e, remove -e and add -ing	<i>live → living, make → making</i>
verbs ending in -ie, change the -ie to -y and add -ing	<i>lie → lying</i>
one-syllable verbs ending in a vowel + a consonant (except w, x or y), double the consonant and add -ing	<i>sit → sitting, swim → swimming</i>
two-syllable verbs ending in a stressed vowel + a consonant, double the consonant and add -ing	<i>begin → beginning (but open → opening)</i>
In British English, we double the final l in travel	<i>travel → travelling</i> (American English: <i>travel → traveling</i>)

Past continuous and past simple

We use the **past continuous**:

- to describe activities happening at a particular moment in the past. Sometimes, these activities happen at the same time. We're not interested when the activities started or finished.
*Mum and Dad **were cooking**, my brother **was playing** and I **was doing** my homework.*
- after *while* to refer to a longer action or event that happened at the same time as another action.
*While Gary **was painting** the bedroom, Paula **was painting** the living room.*

We use the **past simple**:

- when one action follows another.
*I **put** on my coat and I **left** the house. Then, it **started** to rain.*
- after *when* to refer to a shorter action or event that happened in the middle of a longer one or interrupted it.
*I **was putting** on my coat when it **started** to rain.*

1 Use the past continuous to write complete sentences.

At 7.30 last night ...

0 Mum / drive / her car into the garage.

Mum was driving her car into the garage.

1 It / rain.

3 My brother and I / watch TV in the living room.

2 Dad / cook / dinner.

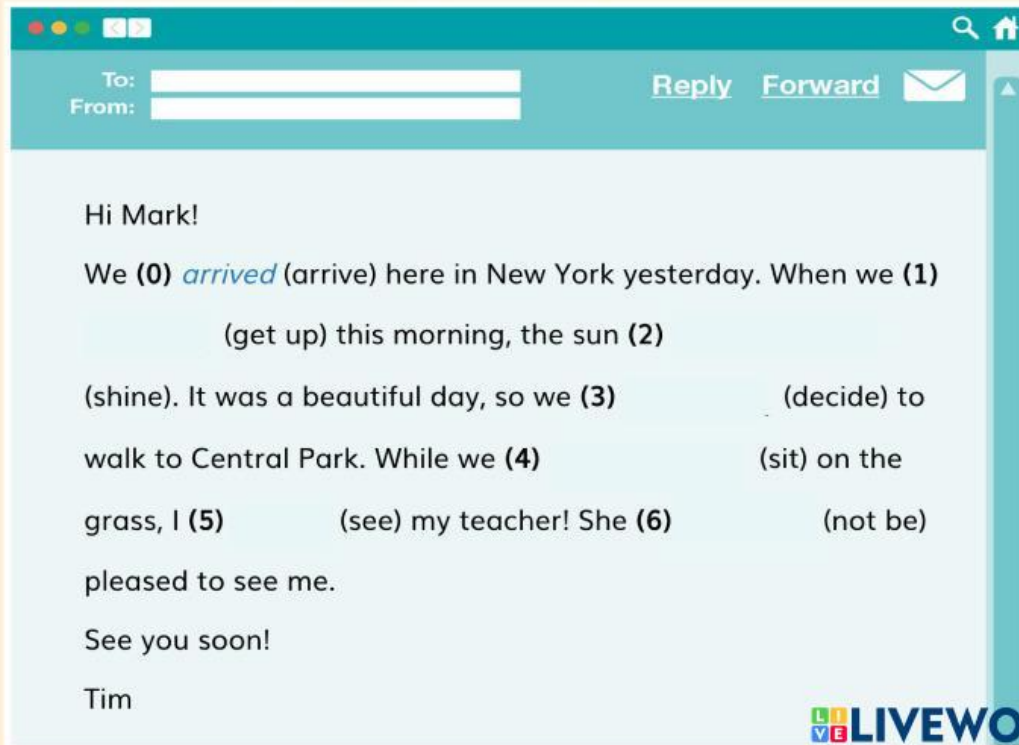
4 My sister / read.

5 My grandparents / leave their apartment.

2 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 0 I was studying in my bedroom when I heard / *was hearing* a strange noise.
- 1 While I was surfing, it *started* / *was starting* to rain.
- 2 My friends *played* / *were playing* football in the classroom when the teacher came in.
- 3 We walked to the park and then we *had* / *were having* a game of football.
- 4 Ed rang me while I *did* / *was doing* my homework.
- 5 We *packed* / *were packing* our suitcases when the phone rang.

3 Complete the email with the past simple or past continuous form of the verb in brackets.



To:
From:

[Reply](#) [Forward](#) 

Hi Mark!

We (0) *arrived* (arrive) here in New York yesterday. When we (1) (get up) this morning, the sun (2) (shine). It was a beautiful day, so we (3) (decide) to walk to Central Park. While we (4) (sit) on the grass, I (5) (see) my teacher! She (6) (not be) pleased to see me.

See you soon!

Tim

4 Complete the sentences using the past simple or the past continuous. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 While my brother was painting his bedroom, my sister (help) our mum in the garden.
- 2 We (live) in an apartment for a year and then we moved to a house.
- 3 My dad (cook) dinner in the kitchen when I arrived home from school.
- 4 I did my homework and we (eat) dinner in the kitchen.
- 5 When mum phoned me, I (leave) my classroom with my friends.
- 6 While my parents (watch) TV, I was playing computer games with my friends.

5 Correct the mistakes in the sentences.



- 1 I felt very nervous while we watched the match.
- 2 We waited at a bus stop when we first met.
- 3 We were amazed when we were finding so much money.
- 4 While I cleaning the kitchen, I saw the broken window.
- 5 It is snowing when we went outside.
- 6 I was leaving the house just after you called me.

1 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 I was making a sandwich
 - 2 I was sending a text message
 - 3 I was playing tennis with my sister
 - 4 I was playing an online video game on my laptop
 - 5 I was closing the garage door
- a when my phone stopped working.
b when I remembered the dog was still inside!
c when I cut my finger on the bread knife.
d when I broke my racket.
e when the wi-fi stopped working.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 I was reading (read) a book about NASA when Kelly texted (text) me.
- 1 Marta (swim) in the sea when it (start) raining heavily.
- 2 Charlie (phone) while you (play) football.
- 3 Dina (walk) home from the sports club when she (see) her French teacher, Mr Roland.
- 4 Jim's mum (buy) his birthday present while he was (play) tennis at the club.
- 5 Sarah (watch) a film in the cinema when someone (take) her bag.
- 6 Bruna and I (fly) to London when a storm (begin).
- 7 It was very busy in our house at seven o'clock this morning. While I (make) breakfast, my mum (talk) on the phone, my dad (clean) the floor and my sisters (play) with the dog.
- 8 Katie (do) her homework when her best friend (arrive) to see her.