GRAMMAR Past continuous

1 Read the table. Complete sentences 1-4 using the verbs in the article.

Positive	Eric Shipton	was	1 _____ in the mountains.
	The climbers	were	2 _____ through thick snow.
Negative	Eric Shipton	wasn't	3 _____ alone.
	The climbers	weren't	4 _____ that day.
Questions	Was	I/he/she/it	looking for footprints?
	Were	you/we/they	
Short answers	Yes,	I/he/she/it	was.
	No,		wasn't.
	Yes,	you/we/they	were.
	No,		weren't.

Is the story real?

In 1951, a British explorer, Eric Shipton, was climbing in the Himalayas, south of Mount Everest. He wasn't exploring alone. There were several climbers and Sherpas with him. They weren't climbing that day, but they were walking through thick snow on a mountain 6,000 metres high when they saw a line of footprints. They followed the footprints for 500 metres. The footprints were 33 cm wide, 20 cm long and a few centimetres deep. It wasn't a bear. The footprints were much too big. The Sherpas said the animal usually lived in the forests and didn't often come up into the snow. Their name for the animal was the Yeti, or the Wild Man of the Snows. People still come back from the Himalayas today with stories of seeing the Yeti.

PAST CONTINUOUS

Positive	I/He/She/It **was eating** dinner. You/We/They **were playing** football.
Negative	I/He/She/It **wasn't** (**was not**) **sleeping**. You/We/They **weren't** (**were not**) **helping**.
Questions	What **was** I/he/she/it **doing** at 8 am? What **were** you/we/they **watching** on TV? **Was** I/he/she/it **playing** computer games? **Were** you/we/they **listening** to music?
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**.

We use the **past continuous** to talk about activities happening at a moment in the past.
*I **was watching** TV, my parents **were working** and my brother **was playing** football yesterday afternoon.*

SPELLING: *-ING* FORM

Present continuous

most verbs add *-ing*	*go → **going*** *brush → brush**ing*** *eat → eat**ing***
verbs ending in *-e*: remove *-e* and add *-ing*	*wake → wak**ing*** *have → hav**ing***
verbs ending in *-ie*: change the *-ie* to *-y* and add *-ing*	*lie → l**ying***
one-syllable verbs ending in a consonant + a vowel + a consonant (except *w*, *x* or *y*): double the consonant and add *-ing*	*get dressed → get**ting** dressed* *shop → sho**pping***
two-syllable verbs ending in a stressed vowel + a consonant: double the consonant and add *-ing*	*begin → begi**nning*** (**but** *open → open**ing***)
In British English, we double the final *l* in *travel*.	*travel → travel**ling*** (American English: *travel → travel**ing***)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

1. At 6 pm, I *was doing* / *were doing* my homework.
2. My dad *was cooking* / *were cooking* our dinner.
3. Yesterday afternoon, we *wasn't playing* / *weren't playing* tennis.
4. Yesterday afternoon, you *wasn't wearing* / *weren't wearing* your new cap.
5. My friends *wasn't having* / *weren't having* lunch at 1 pm.
6. We *was climbing* / *were climbing* a tree on Saturday morning.

2 Complete the paragraph with the past continuous form of the verbs in the box.

cry	listen	~~make~~	not	sleep	not
watch	rain	read	sit	surf	

This morning, my dad [0] *was making* breakfast. The baby was hungry and he [1] _____ . My big sister was in her bedroom. She [2] _____ she [3] _____ a magazine. My mum and my older brother [4] _____ the internet. My little sister [5] _____ in her favourite chair, but she [6] _____ TV. My younger brother [7] _____ to loud music. There were clouds in the sky and it [8] _____ . I decided to stay at home.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Write complete questions in the past continuous. Then write short answers.

0 it / snow? (✗)

Was it snowing?

No it wasn't.

1 your friends / ride their bikes? (✓)

_____

_____

2 you / shop with your friends? (✓)

_____

_____

3 your mum / work? (✗)

_____

_____

4 I / have a shower? (✗)

_____

_____

5 you and your friends / swim in the lake? (✓)

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 **Put the words in order to make questions. Then write answers that are true for you.**

0 yesterday at 11 am / you / were / sleeping / ?
Were you sleeping yesterday at 11 am?
No, I wasn't. I was studying at school.

1 were / doing / you / at 8 am this morning / what / ?

2 blue socks / you / were / wearing / yesterday / ?

3 after school yesterday / watching / a film / were / you and your friends / ?

4 raining / was / it / yesterday evening / ?

5 on Saturday morning / what / your friends / doing / were / ?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 What was happening yesterday afternoon? Complete the sentences with the past continuous form of the verbs.

0 '*Was* Suzie helping *helping* (help) her teacher?' 'Yes, *she was*.'

1 The boys _____ (play) football in the park. They _____ (not run) very fast because the grass was too long.

2 _____ you _____ (climb) that tree?' 'No, I _____.'

3 My friend _____ (watch) TV. She _____ (not tidy) her room.

4 _____ the students _____ (working) on the computer?' 'Yes, _____.'

3 Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

_____ **1** We are playing football in the park yesterday morning.

_____ **2** I lost it at the party when we are dancing.

_____ **3** We aren't reading stories about strange animals in class yesterday.

_____ **4** She isn't thinking and she dropped her bag.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRONUNCIATION

Rising and falling intonation

113 **4** **Listen and repeat.**

My brother was riding his bike.
My dad wasn't working in the garden.
Were they climbing in the mountains?
Were you looking for footprints?

5 **In pairs, ask and answer the questions.**

What were you doing …
… last Sunday morning at eleven o'clock?
… yesterday at seven o'clock in the morning?
… last Saturday at one o'clock?
… last Monday evening at six o'clock?

What were you doing last Sunday morning at eleven o'clock?

I was at the sports centre.
I was swimming with my mum.

LIVEWORKSHEETS