PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

S+ was/were + V-ing.
It was raining all day.

S+ was/were + not + V-ing.
They weren' t sleeping when the light went off.

Was/Were + S + V-ing?
Was he studying when I came home?

We use the Past Continuous Tense for:

Interrupted action in the past.	They were waiting for the strain when I spoke to them. Tom was playing football when he broke his leg.
Parallel actions:	I was studying while my brother was watching TV. Susan was working on the computer while Tom was watching TV.
Action in a particular point in time:	I was working in the garden all day yesterday. We were having dinner at 8 last night.
Repetition and irritation	He was always complaining in the class. My mother was constantly repeating the same thing.

Time Markers: when, while, always, constantly, at that time, in those days, all day, all the morning/evening, at this time . . .

Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the past continuous tense.

Ex. They were standing (stand) on the corner when I saw them.

1. The sun _____ (shine) when I woke up this morning.
2. It_____ (rain) when I left the office.
3. I_____ (eat) dinner when you called me.
4. She got very sick while she_____ (travel) overseas.
5. Martin_____ (work) in the garden when it started to rain.
6. I_____ (cook) dinner when the phone rang.
7. Mr. Johnson cut himself while he_____ (shave).
8. She fell asleep while she_____ (watch) the movie.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9. Andrea broke her ankle when she_____ (skate).

10. I saw a bad accident while I_____ (drive) home.

11. She found a ten dollar bill while she_____ (walk) home.

12. They_____ (speed) when the accident happened.

13. The baby_____ (sleep) when we got home from the party.

14. She broke a plate while she_____ (do) the dishes.

15. When you called, I_____ (take) a shower.

16. David met his neighbors while he_____ (move) into his new apartment.

Read each situation below and answer the following questions.

Ex. Dan was walking to work when it started to rain.
What was Dan doing when it started to rain? He was walking to work.

1. Maryann was writing a letter to her boyfriend when the electricity went out.

What was Maryann doing when the lights went out?

_____

2. Brenda was cooking dinner when she saw a mouse on the kitchen floor.

What was Brenda doing when she saw the mouse?

_____

3. Last week Andrew was having coffee with his beautiful new secretary when his wife came into the café.

What was Andrew doing when his wife came into the café?

_____

4. Kevin was painting the house when he fell off the ladder.

What was Kevin doing when he fell off the ladder?

_____

5. I was walking to work when I saw the car accident.

What were you doing when you saw the accident?

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the following story. Then answer questions about it.

Hannah met Jamie in the summer of 2004. It was Hannah's 21st birthday and she and her friends went to a club. They wanted to dance, but they didn't like the music so Hannah went to speak to the DJ. This music is awful, "she said. "Could you play something else? The DJ looked at her and said "Don't worry; I have the perfect song for you. "

Two minutes later he said: "The next song is by Coldplay. It's called Yellow and it's for a beautiful girl who is dancing over there. " Hannah knew that the song was for her because she was wearing a yellow dress. When Hannah and her friends left the club the DJ was waiting at the door. "Hi, I'm Jamie, " he said to Hannah. "Can I see you again?" So Hannah gave him her phone number.

Next day Jamie phoned Hannah and invited her to dinner. He took her to a very romantic French restaurant and they talked all evening. After that Jamie and Hannah saw each other every day. Every evening when Hannah finished work they met at 5.30 in a coffee bar in the High Street. They were madly in love.

One evening in October, Hannah was at work. As usual she was going to meet Jamie at 5.30. It was dark and it was raining. She looked at her watch. It was 5.20! She was going to be late! She ran to her car and got in. At 5.25 she was driving along the High Street. She was going very fast because she was in a hurry. Suddenly, a man ran across the road. He was wearing a dark coat so Hannah didn't see him until it was too late. Although she tried to stop, she hit the man. Hannah panicked. She didn't stop and she drove to the coffee bar as fast as she could. But when she arrived Jamie wasn't there. She phoned him, but his mobile was turned off, so she waited for ten minutes and then went home.

Two hours later a police car arrived at Hannah's house. A policewoman knocked at the door. "Good evening, Madam, " she said, "Are you Hannah Davis? I'd like to speak to you. Can I come in? "

1. Where did Hannah meet Jamie?

2. What was Jamie doing when they met?

3. Where did they go on their first date?

4. Why did Hannah run to her car one October evening?

5. What did she do after she hit the man?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6. How long did she wait for Jamie?

LIVEWORKSHEETS