2B past continuous: *was / were + verb + -ing*

At 8.45 last Saturday I **was working** in my office. 1 39
I **wasn't doing** anything important.
My friends **were having** breakfast. They **weren't working**.
A **Was** it **raining** when you got up? B No, **it wasn't**.
A What **were** you **doing** at 11 o'clock last night? B I **was watching** TV.

+	I / He / She / It	**was working**	You / We / They	**were working**
−	I / He / She / It	**wasn't working**	You / We / They	**weren't working**

? ✓ ✗	**Was** he **working**?	**Yes**, he **was**. / **No**, he **wasn't**.
	Were they **working**?	**Yes**, they **were**. / **No**, they **weren't**.

- Use the past continuous to describe an action in progress at a specific moment in the past.
- We often use the past continuous to describe the situation at the beginning of a story or narrative.

past simple or past continuous?

I **was working** in my office when the boss **walked in**. 1 40
I **was having** lunch when my sister **arrived**.

- Use the past simple for a completed action in the past.
- Use the past continuous for an action in progress before or at the time of the past simple action.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2B

a Complete the sentences with a verb in the past continuous.

I *was eating* dinner, so I didn't answer the phone. (eat)

1 I took this photo when my wife _____ in the garden. (work)

2 He met his wife when he _____ in Japan. (live)

3 They _____ for us when we arrived. (not wait)

4 _____ she _____ a coat when she went out? (wear)

5 The sun _____ when I left for work. (shine)

6 What _____ you _____ at 7.30 last night? (do)

7 I _____ when you gave the instructions. (not listen)

8 We _____ TV when you phoned. (not watch)

b Put the verbs into the past simple or past continuous.

She *arrived* when we *were having* dinner. (arrive, have)

1 I _____ my arm when I _____ football. (break, play)

2 _____ you _____ fast when the police _____ you? (drive, stop)

3 It _____ when we _____ the pub. (snow, leave)

4 I _____ the match because I _____. (not see, work)

5 When you _____ me, I _____ to my boss. (call, talk)

6 We _____ in Cambridge when we _____. (study, meet)

7 _____ they _____ in Rome when they _____ their first baby? (live, have)

LIVEWORKSHEETS