Past Continuous

1. Grammar Link

⇨ Go to page 111. Take Grammar Quiz 6.

2. Grammar Introduction

A. Past Continuous

Affirmative	Negative	Yes/No Question
I/She/He/It **was** eating. We/You/They **were**	I/She/He/It **wasn't** eating. We/You/They **weren't**	**Was** I/she/he/it eating? **Were** we/you/they

• The past continuous is used for an action that was going on at a specific time in the past.
• The past continuous tense: Be (past tense) + verb~ing
• wasn't = was + not, weren't = were + not
• Answers to yes/no questions: Yes, ~was/were.   No, ~ wasn't/weren't.

Complete the sentence in the past continuous tense.

1 climb ❌ My cat ......wasn't climbing...... a tree at 7 o'clock this morning.

2 read ⭕ Mr. Johnson .... a newspaper at 6 o'clock yesterday.

3 talk ❓ .... you .... to your friend at 9:30 last night?

4 have ❌ Amy and Mary .... lunch at 1:30 yesterday.

5 sleep ⭕ I .... at midnight last night.

6 wash ❓ .... your dad .... his car at 2:00 yesterday?

7 practice ❌ The twins .... piano at 5:00 yesterday.

8 study ⭕ The girls .... at the library at 8:00 yesterday.

B. Past Simple vs. Past Continuous 1

Sam and Tom **watched** a movie from 2:00 to 3:30 yesterday afternoon. They **were watching** a movie at 2:30.	• The past simple is used to talk about actions that began and ended in the past. • The past continuous is used to talk about an action that was going on at a specific time in the past.

Complete the sentence.

1 Mary and her family sat at the dinner table at 6:30 yesterday.

They [eat] .... were eating .... dinner at 6:35.
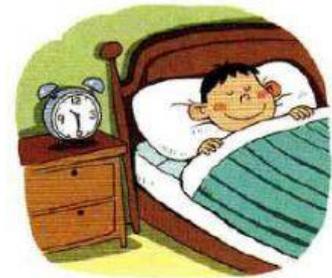
2 Tom went to bed at 10:30 last night.

At 11:30, Tom [sleep] ....

3 The math test was from 9:00 to 9:50 this morning.

I [take] .... the test at 9:20.

4 The soccer game was from 2:00 to 3:00 yesterday.

The players [play] .... soccer at 2:20.

C. Past Simple vs. Past Continuous 2

I studied from 8:00 to 9:00 last night. Amy called at 8:30. **I was studying** when Amy called.	• The past continuous is also used to talk about an action that was going on at the time of another action in the past.
When Amy called, I was studying. Amy called **while** I was studying.	• when = at that time • while = during that time

Complete the sentence using when or while.

1 I was taking a nap .... when .... the door bell rang.

= The door bell rang .... I was taking a nap.

2 The teacher came in .... the students were singing.

= The students were singing .... the teacher came in.

3 .... it started to rain, we were riding our bikes.

= It started to rain .... we were riding our bikes.

4 .... you called, I was doing my homework.

= You called .... I was doing my homework.

3. Grammar Practice

Ⓐ Look and write. What were the students doing when the teacher came in?
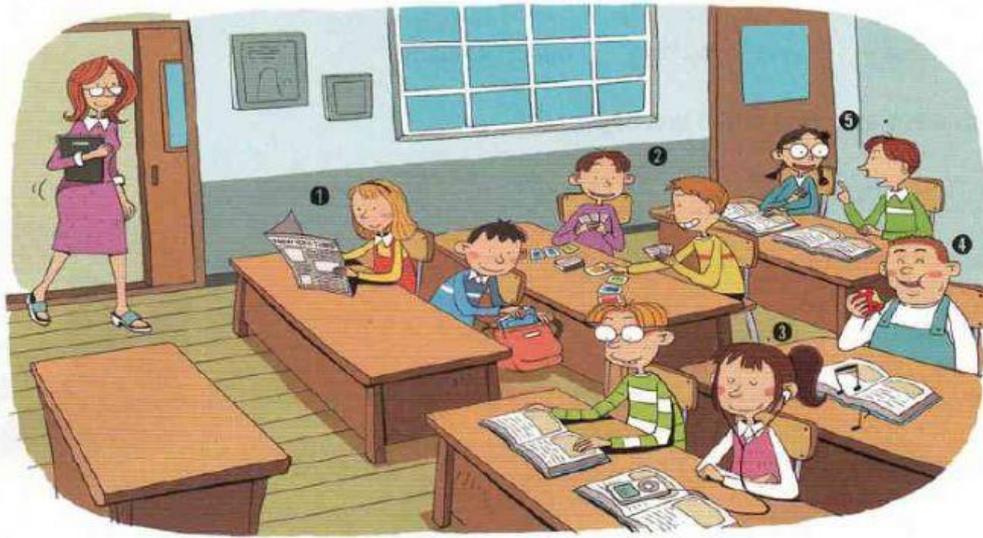
1 Amy _was reading a newspaper when the teacher came in._

2 John and Mike ....

3 Mary ....

4 Tom ....

5 Sally and Ken ....

Ⓑ Write the sentence. Use the past continuous or the past simple tense.

1 .... when my friend called me.

    | I / do / my homework |

2 While I was sleeping, ...

    | it / snow |

3 .... in the kitchen when his mom came in.

    | Sam / kick the ball |

4 .... while we were having a party.

    | the lights / go out |

C Write the answers about you. Use a complete sentence.

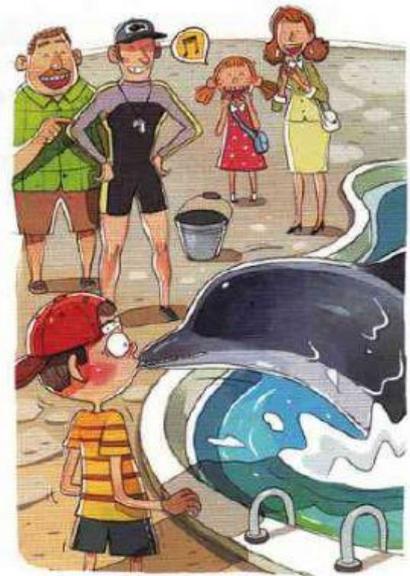**1** What were you doing when the teacher came into the classroom today?

....

2 What was your mom doing when you came home from school yesterday?

....

D Write the verb in the past continuous tense.

A Big Wet Kiss

When I was a little boy, I ___was visiting___ an aquarium with
                              ❶ visit
my family. I _____ a great time. The dolphin trainer asked
            ❷ have
me to help him while my family and I _____ the show.
                                      ❸ watch
The dolphins _____ in their tank, and I _____
            ❹ swim   **❺** stand
right on the edge. _____ I _____ in the water? No, I
                            ❻ go
_____ that wet. I _____ very still like the
❼ not get   **❽** stand
trainer told me. A dolphin _____ toward me. It
                            ❾ come
_____. It _____ me! Then I knew I wanted to
❿ jump   **⓫** kiss
be a dolphin trainer too.

4. Grammar Summary

Past Continuous		
Affirmative	**Negative**	**Yes/No Question**
I/She/He/It **was** eating. We/You/They **were**	I/She/He/It **wasn't** eating. We/You/They **weren't**	**Was** I/she/he/it eating? **Were** we/you/they
When Amy called, I was studying. Amy called **while** I was studying.		