

10 The past continuous

The past continuous is used in English to talk about actions or events that were in progress at some time in the past. It is formed with "was" or "were" and a present participle.



10.1 MATCH THE PICTURES TO THE CORRECT SENTENCES



I was decorating the kitchen on Wednesday evening.

The children were watching TV when I got home.

I was mowing the lawn when you tried to call.

This time last year, Craig was on vacation in Hawaii.



10.2 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE

I **was eating** / ~~ate~~ my dinner when there ~~was being~~ / **was** a knock on the door.

- 1 We **were sunbathing** / ~~sunbathed~~ when it **was beginning** / ~~began~~ to rain.
- 2 When I **was meeting** / ~~met~~ Tracy yesterday, she **was wearing** / ~~wore~~ a lovely dress.
- 3 It **was being** / ~~was~~ a beautiful day and the birds **were singing** / ~~sang~~ in the trees.
- 4 I **was hearing** / ~~heard~~ a loud bang when I **was watching** / ~~watched~~ TV last night.
- 5 It **was starting** / ~~started~~ to rain while I **was talking** / ~~talked~~ on the telephone.



10.3 FILL IN THE GAPS, PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE CORRECT ORDER

Why you a were suit wearing yesterday, Paul?

1 We in the hiking were Alps this time last year.

2 Colm he driving work saw was when to a deer.

3 Who I talking were when you to you saw yesterday?

4 It was cloudy yesterday, but at least raining again wasn't it.



10.4 FILL IN THE GAPS BY PUTTING THE VERBS IN THE CORRECT TENSES

We were walking (walk) in the forest when we saw (see) a bear.

1 Mia visited (visit) Sydney while she travelling (travel) around Australia.

2 The children were reading (read) when I entered (enter) the classroom.

3 Ravi saw (see) an old castle when he walked (walk) through the forest.

4 The sun was shining (shine) when we set off (set off) on the journey home.