

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

Past continuous: questions



Watch video 3.3
What were they doing in the country?
What was her sister holding?

I/he/she/it	you/we/they
Was he wearing his wedding clothes?	³ _____ the children standing close to the lake?
Yes, he ¹ _____. / No, he ² _____.	Yes, they ⁴ _____. / No, they weren't.

1 Complete the examples in the table above.

2 Complete the dialogues with the past continuous form of the verbs. Then listen and check.

1 A you / TV at 8 pm last night? (watch)
Were you watching TV at 8 pm last night?

B ✓ Yes, I was.

2 A What / your friends / at 7 am this morning? (do)

B get up

3 A What / you / yesterday? (wear)

B jeans and a hoodie

4 A your best friend / at 5 pm yesterday? (chat online)

B X play basketball

Past simple and past continuous

When Clayton **jumped** into the water, he ¹ _____ (wear) his wedding clothes.

While the photographer ² _____ (prepare) his camera, Clayton **noticed** three children.

past simple
past continuous

3 Complete the examples in the table above with the correct form of the word in brackets.

Get it right!

We can use *when*, *while* and *as* + past continuous for a longer action in progress.
We use *when* + past simple for a shorter action that interrupts a longer one.

4 Complete the text with the past simple or past continuous. Then listen and check.

I ¹ was walking (walk) to the bus stop one afternoon when I ² _____ (fall) over on the icy street.
I ³ _____ (carry) a heavy bag with all my school things and I ⁴ _____ (break) my glasses.
I ⁵ _____ (feel) very embarrassed.
A lot of other people ⁶ _____ (wait) for the bus, but they ⁷ _____ (not help) me. However, one woman ⁸ _____ (pick up) my bag and glasses and she ⁹ _____ (find) an empty seat for me.
While I ¹⁰ _____ (sit) there, she ¹¹ _____ (clean) my face and gave me some water. But when I ¹² _____ (look) for her a few minutes later, there was no one there.

Use it!

5 Work in pairs. Take turns to say a sentence to continue and finish the story below. Use the past simple and past continuous.

While I was walking to school this morning, I saw ...

Finished? p120 Ex 3