



Name:

Day/Date:

Class/no.:

Simple past vs. past progressive: Talking about the past

While I **was swimming** the other day, I **thought** about the dolphins that **saved** four lifeguards.

What **did** the dolphins **do** when they **knew** a shark was near? They **didn't swim** away. Instead, they **swam** around the lifeguards. They **were protecting** the lifeguards from harm.

What **were** the lifeguards **doing** in the water? They **were enjoying** a swim.

When the rescue boat **arrived**, the dolphins **were** still **keeping** the shark away from the lifeguards. The dolphins **stayed** close as the lifeguards **climbed** into the boat.

Use the past progressive to talk about an action that was already happening when another action began or happened. Use simple past for that second action that began or happened.

To form past progressive, use *was/were + verb + ing*.

A. Circle the correct answer

1. Jimmy Chin (hiked / was hiking) in the Himalayas when the weather unexpectedly (became / was becoming) terrible.
2. Jimmy (skied / was skiing) on a high mountain when an avalanche (struck / was striking) without warning.
3. I suddenly (felt / was feeling) the earth shakes while I (read / was reading) my book.
4. The wildfire (started / was starting) while we (camped / were camping) in the forest.

B. Complete the sentences. Use The Past Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

1. I _____ (drive) the car when I saw the smoke.
2. The hurricane _____ (rotate) when many tourists enjoyed the sunset.
3. Jimmy Chin _____ (ski) when the avalanche started to move.
4. Somebody _____ (scream) when the flame spread very quickly.

C. Complete the blanks using the verbs in the brackets. Make necessary changes.

1. The flames _____ (burn) the building when the fire truck _____ (come).
2. While we _____ (live) in Chile, we _____ (experience) an earthquake.
3. When I _____ (be) little, I _____ (live) in a house on the edge of the forest.
4. While I _____ (play) outside with my little sister, I _____ (see) smoke.