

## Past Continuous Uses

### USE 1 Interrupted Action in the Past



Use the past continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually a shorter action in the simple past.

Examples:

- I **was watching** TV when she called.
- Sammy **was waiting** for us when we got off the plane.
- What **were you doing** when you broke your leg?

### USE 2 Specific Time as an Interruption



You can also use a specific time as an interruption.

Examples:

- Last night at 6 PM, I **was eating** dinner.
- At midnight, we **were still driving** through the desert.

### USE 3 Parallel Actions



When you use the past continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions were happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.

Examples:

- I **was studying** while he **was making** dinner.
- While Ellen **was reading**, Tim **was watching** television.

**Worksheet 1:**

1. Add the -ing to the following verbs.

1. camping
2. swimming
3. traveling
4. walking
5. having
6. writing
7. cooking
8. shopping

2. Complete with the vocabulary of the unit.



whale



dolphin



shark



seal



jellyfish



octopus



squid



lobster



oyster



seahorse



turtle



ray

## Worksheet 2:

1. Read the table, then write sentences in affirmative, negative or interrogative  
USING PAST CONTINUOUS

What were you doing at 8 o'clock yesterday?

I	play the flute
you	not watch TV
he	not read
she	laugh with her friends
it	not snow
we	have dinner
they	chat
Emma	study
Luke	not work

I was playing the flute.

1. Luke was working
2. I was playing the flute
3. He was reading
4. They were chatting
5. Luke wasn't working
6. You were not watching TV
7. She was laughing with her friends
8. It wasn't snowing
9. Emma was studying
10. We were having dinner

### Worksheet 3:

1. Complete the questions using past continuous.

2. **Was** Ashley **working** on the computer?
3. **Were** they **repairing** the bike?
4. **Was** Melissa **taking** out a book?
5. **Were** you **listening** to music?
6. **Was** Nicolas **looking** at a picture?
7. **Were** Emma and Bertha **phoning** their friend?
8. **Was** the girl **opening** the window?
9. **Was** he **doing** judo?
10. **Were** the friends **coming** home from school?
11. **Was** Tyler **helping** with the cooking?

1. Read the sentences and transform them into affirmative, negative and interrogative:

+ She was reading a book yesterday at 8 p.m.

- **She wasn't reading a book yesterday at 8 p.m.**

? **Was she reading a book yesterday at 8 p.m.?**

+ **They were at school yesterday at 9 a.m.**

- They weren't at school yesterday at 9 a.m.

? **Were they at school yesterday at 9 a.m. ?**

**Worksheet 4: EXTRA!!! (This is more difficult, don't worry if you don't get it)**

Complete with the correct form of the past simple or past continuous:

1. A) What (you, do) were you doing when you heard that noise?  
B) I (try) was trying to change a lightbulb that had burnt out.
2. After I (find) found the wallet full of money, I (go, immediately) immediately went to the police and (turn) turned it in.
3. John is in the living room working on his computer. At this time yesterday, he (work, also) was also working on his computer. That's all he ever does!
4. When I (walk) walked into the busy office, the secretaries (talk) were talking on the phone with customers, a clerk (work, busily) was busily working at his desk, and two managers (discuss, quietly) were quietly discussing methods to improve customer service.

2. Complete the sentences using the present continuous:

1. I was sleeping when Granny came home. ( sleep )
2. Sarah was talking to her twin brother who lives overseas. ( talk )
3. It was raining heavily so we did not go outside. ( rain )
4. We were racing to the fence when I fell. ( race )
5. They were living in St. Peter since 1996. ( live )

