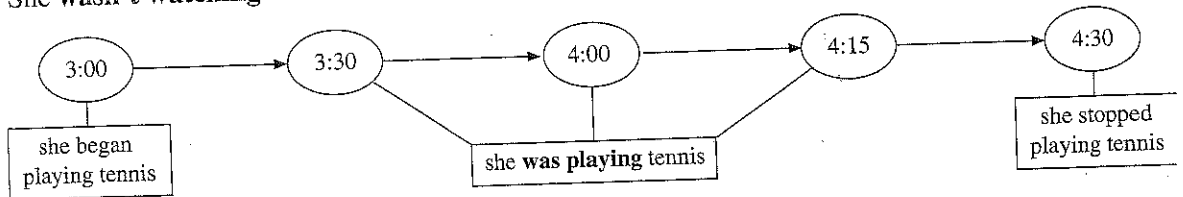
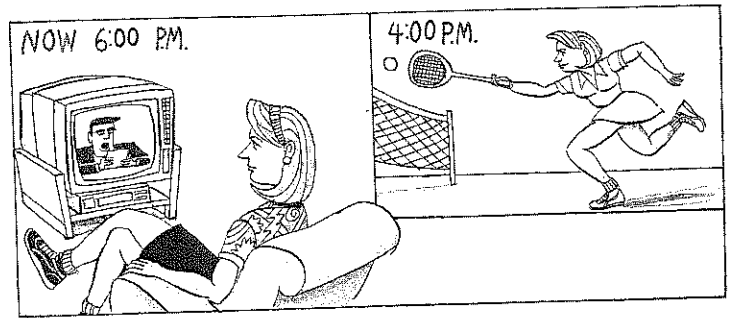


I was doing (past continuous)

Now it is 6:00.
Ann is at home.
She is watching television.

At 4:00 she wasn't at home.
She was playing tennis.
She wasn't watching television.



A

was/were -ing (doing/playing/working, etc.) is the *past continuous* tense:

Positive	
I he she it	was -ing
we you they	were -ing

Negative		
I he she it	was not (wasn't)	-ing
we you they	were not (weren't)	-ing

Question		
was	I he she it	-ing?
were	we you they	-ing?

- "What were you doing at 11:30 yesterday?" "I was working."
- "What did he say?" "I don't know. I wasn't listening."
- It was raining, so we didn't go out.
- In 1990 they were living in Japan.
- Today she's wearing a skirt, but yesterday she was wearing pants.
- I woke up early yesterday. It was a beautiful morning. The sun was shining and the birds were singing.

B

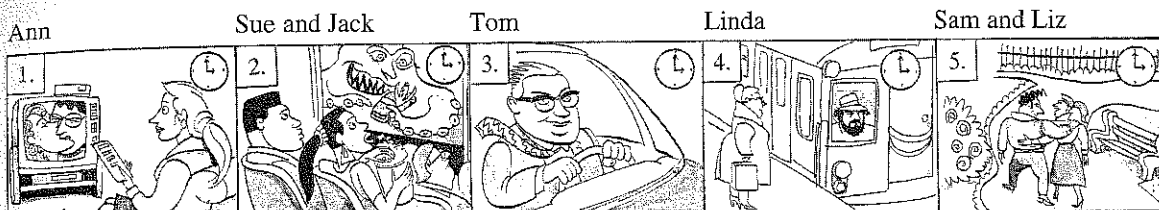
am/is/are -ing (present) → was/were -ing (past):

- I'm working (now). I was working at 10:30 last night.
- It isn't raining (now). It wasn't raining when we went out.
- What are you doing (now)? What were you doing at 3 o'clock?

For spelling (make → making, run → running, lie → lying, etc.), see Appendix 4.
For the past continuous, see also Unit 13.

Exercises

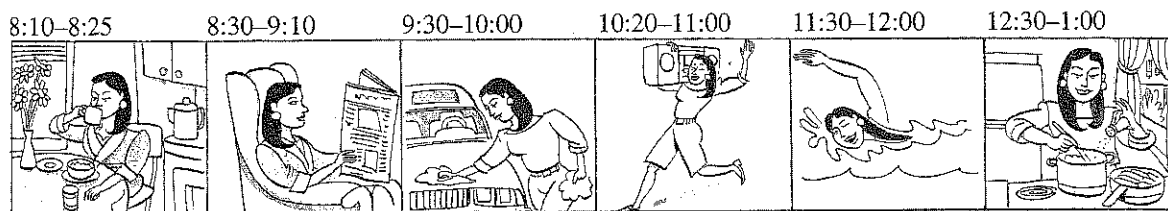
12.1 Look at the pictures. Where were these people at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon? And what were they doing? Write *two* sentences for each picture.



1. Ann at home / watch TV
 2. Sue and Jack at the theater / watch a movie
 3. Tom in his car / drive
 4. Linda at the station / wait for a train
 5. Sam and Liz in the park / walk

1. *Ann was at home. She was watching TV.*
2. Sue and Jack They
3. Tom
4.
5.
6. And you? I I

12.2 Kim did a lot of things yesterday morning. Write a sentence for each picture.



8:10-8:25 have / breakfast
 8:30-9:10 read / a newspaper
 9:30-10:00 wash / her car
 10:20-11:00 listen / to music
 11:30-12:00 swim
 12:30-1:00 cook

1. At 9:45 *she was washing her car.*
2. At 11:45
3. At 9 o'clock
4. At 12:50
5. At 8:15
6. At 10:30

12.3 Write questions. Use *was/were -ing*.

1. (what / Tim / do / when you saw him?) *What was Tim doing when you saw him*
2. (what / you / do / at 11 o'clock?) What
3. (what / she / wear / yesterday?)
4. (it / rain / when you went out?)
5. (where / you / live / in 1991?)

12.4 You saw Joe on the street yesterday. What was he doing? Write positive or negative sentences.



1. (he / wear / a jacket) *He wasn't wearing a jacket.*
2. (he / smoke / a pipe)
3. (he / carry / a bag)
4. (he / carry / an umbrella)
5. (he / go / to the dentist)
6. (he / wear / a hat)

I was doing (past continuous) and I did (simple past)



Jack was reading a book.



The phone rang.



He stopped reading.



He answered the phone.

What **happened**? The phone **rang**. (*simple past*)

What **was Jack doing** when the phone rang?

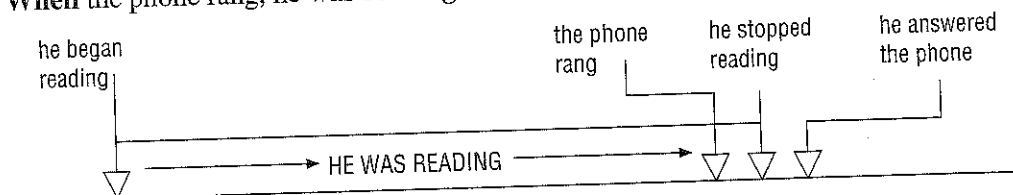
He **was reading** a book. (*past continuous*)

What **did he do** when the phone rang?

He **stopped** reading and **answered** the phone. (*simple past*)

Jack began reading *before* the phone rang. So:

When the phone rang, he **was reading**.



Simple past

beginning (3 o'clock) end (4 o'clock)

we played

(complete action)

We **played** tennis yesterday.
(from 3 o'clock until 4 o'clock)

Past continuous

beginning (3 o'clock)

we were playing

(in the middle of an action)

A: What **were you doing** at 3:30 yesterday?
B: We **were playing** tennis.

- Jack **was reading** the newspaper when the phone **rang**.
but Jack **read** the newspaper yesterday.
- **Were you watching** television when I **called** you?
but **Did you watch** the movie on television last night?
- I **started** work at 9:00 and **finished** at 4:30. At 2:30 I **was working**.
- When we **went** out, it **was raining**. (= it started raining *before* we went out)
- I **saw** Sue and Tom this morning. They **were standing** at the bus stop.
- Ann **fell** asleep while she **was reading**.

For **while**, see Unit 92.

Exercises

13.1 Look at the pictures and write sentences. Use the past continuous or simple past.

Example (see the pictures on page 26): (Jack / read / a book) *Jack was reading a book.*
 (the phone / ring) *The phone rang.*
 (he / answer / the phone) *He answered the phone.*



- (Tom / walk / down the street)
Tom
(he / see / Jack)
.....
(he / say / hello)
.....
- (they / sit / in the garden)
.....
(it / start / to rain)
.....
(they / go / into the house)
.....
- (Mary / paint / the room)
.....
(she / fall / off the ladder)
.....
(she / break / her arm)
.....

13.2 Put the verb into the past continuous (**I was doing**) or simple past (**I did**).

- When we *went*..... (go) out, it *was raining*..... (rain).
- I wasn't hungry last night. I *didn't eat*..... (not/eat) anything.
- Were you watching*..... (you/watch) television when I *phoned*..... (phone) you?
- Jane was busy when I went to see her. She (work).
- I (get) up early this morning. I (wash),
..... (get) dressed, and then I (have) breakfast.
- The mail (come) while I (have) lunch.
- We (meet) Joan at the party. She (wear)
a red dress.
- The boys (break) a window when they
(play) baseball.
- I was late, but my friends (wait) for me when I
..... (arrive).
- I (get) up at 7 o'clock. The sun (shine),
so I (go) for a walk.
- He (not/drive) fast when the accident
(happen).
- Ann (not/go) to work yesterday. She was sick.
- "What (you/do) on Saturday evening?" "I went to the movies."
- "What (you/do) at 9:30 on Saturday night?"
"I (watch) a movie on TV."