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We use the **Past Continuous** to talk about actions or events happening at a particular moment in the past - focusing on the activity in progress.

## Explanation of the Past Continuous Tense



via <http://begin-english.ru/article/the-past-continuous/>

## Questions in Past Continuous

To make questions in the Past Continuous, put '**was**'/'**were**' before the **subject** and add the '-ing' form of the verb:

- What **were** you **doing** when you broke your leg?
- I **was** **snowboarding**.

## Yes/No questions

To create a question that will be answered with a 'yes' or 'no', use '**was**' / '**were**' (or '**wasn't**' / '**weren't**' for a negative question) + -ing verb.

Singular

Plural

**Was I singing?**

**Were we singing?**

**Were you singing?**

**Were you singing?**

**Was he/she/it singing? Were they singing?**

- **Was it snowing** yesterday at 5 o'clock?
- **Were you still skating** in the park when Jemma called you?
- **Were the boys working** in the garden when their uncle came round for a coffee?

Note: In *short positive answers* to the Past Continuous questions we use only full forms of 'was'/'were'. In *short negative answers* we can also use short forms of was/were.

- - **Was he playing** football at that moment?
- - Yes, he **was** (No, he **wasn't**).
- - **Were they staying** with their parents?
- - Yes, they **were** (No, they **weren't**).

## Special questions

Special questions (also known as wh-questions) are questions that require more information in their answers. They are made using [wh- words](#) such as **what, where, when, why, which, who, how, how many, how much**.

To make a special question, use the same word order as with yes-no questions but put a wh-word before the verb 'was' or 'were'. The structure is:

**wh-word + was/were + [subject] + -ing verb**

- What **was** she **thinking** about last night? She looked worried.
- What music **were** they **listening to**?
- Why **were** they **drinking** champagne yesterday?

## Negative forms of Past Continuous

To make negative statements in the Past Continuous, we use:

**was/were + not + the "-ing" form of the verb**

Singular

Plural

*I was not (wasn't) talking We were not (weren't) talking*  
*You were not talking You (weren't) talking*  
*He/she/it was not talking They (weren't) talking*

- Peter **wasn't doing** his homework when his father came in.
- Rebecca was angry with her children because they **weren't sleeping** when she arrived.

Check out this video from Ustazy to summarize different forms of Past Continuous tense:

See also:

[Past Continuous: Statements](#)

[Past Continuous Passive](#)