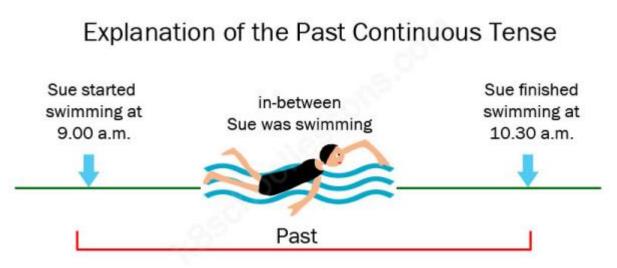


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We use the **Past Continuous** to talk about actions or events happening at a particular moment in the past – focusing on the activity in progress.



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.



SingularPluralWas 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 <u>wh-words</u> 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 whword 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'tsleeping** 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