

PAST CONTINUOUS

FORM

We form the past continuous with **Was/were + V-ing**

AFFIRMATIVE		
I	Was	working
You	Were	
He	Was	
She	Was	
It	Was	
We	Were	
You	Were	
They	were	

NEGATIVE		
I	was not	working
You	were not	
He	was not	
She	was not	
It	was not	
We	were not	
You	were not	
They	were not	

Contraction:
was not = wasn't
were not = weren't

INTERROGATIVE		
Was	I	working ?
Were	you	
Was	he	
Was	she	
Was	it	
Were	we	
Were	you	
Were	they	



SHORT ANSWERS
Yes. I was
Yes. He/she/it was
Yes. You/we/they were
No. I wasn't
No. He/she/it wasn't
No. You/we/they weren't

USE

We use the past continuous:

- To talk about an action which was in progress at a particular time in the past.

*Yesterday at 8.20 I was driving to work.
At 8.30 last night my sister was watching TV.*

A: *What were you doing at 7 o'clock yesterday?*

B: *I was doing my homework*

Compare:

*When I **walked** into the room, Mary **was writing** an email.*

- We use the Past Simple (walked) for a completed action in the past.
- We use the Past Continuous (was writing) for an action in progress in the past.

While / When

- We can use **while** or **when** before the Past Continuous.

*I met Peter **while** I was running in the park.
I met Peter **when** I was running in the park. (when = during the time)*

- We can only use **when** before the Past Simple.

***When** I met Peter we were running in the park.*

SPELLING RULES

- With most verbs we add **-ing**.

go > going
play > playing
work > working

- If the verb ends in **consonant + -e** we delete the **-e** and add **-ing**.

come > coming live > living
move > moving have > having

*Exception: be > being

- If the verb ends in **-ie**, we change **-ie** to **-ying**.

die > dying
lie > lying

- If the verb ends in **one vowel + one consonant**, we double the consonant.

get > getting
run > running
shop > shopping
sit > sitting
put > putting

*Exceptions:

- a) When the verb ends in **one vowel + -y, -w or -x**, we just add **-ing**.

play > playing
snow > snowing
mix > mixing

- b) When the last syllable verb is not stressed.

listen / ˈlɪsən/ > listening
visit / ˈvɪzɪt/ > visiting

*Exception: travel / ˈTRAVəl/ > travelling