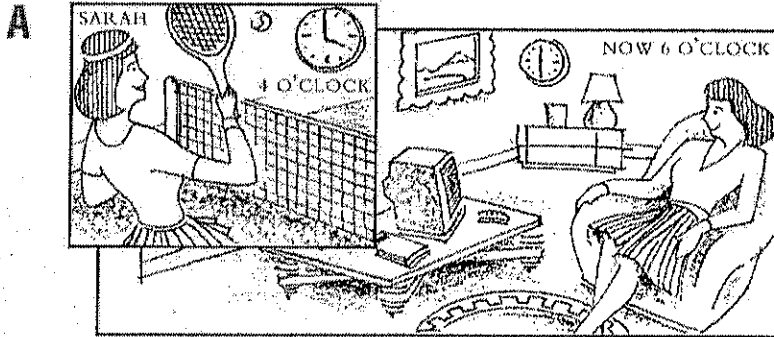


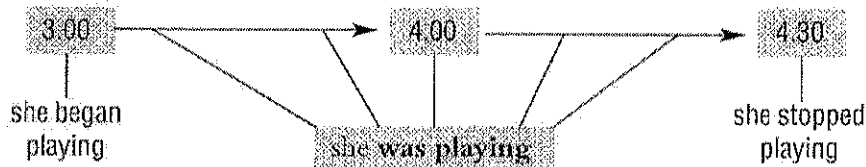
I was doing (past continuous)



It is 6 o'clock now.
Sarah **is** at home.
She **is watching** television.

At 4 o'clock she **wasn't** at home.
She **was** at the sports club.

She **was playing** tennis.
She **wasn't watching** television.



B was/were + -ing is the past continuous:

positive

I he she it	was	doing watching playing running living etc.
we you they	were	

negative

I he she it	was not (wasn't)	doing watching playing running living etc.
we you they	were not (weren't)	

question

was	I he she it	doing? watching? playing? running? living? etc.
were	we you they	

- What **were** you **doing** at 11.30 yesterday? **Were** you **working**?
- 'What did he say?' 'I don't know. I **wasn't listening**.'
- It **was raining**, so we didn't go out.
- In 1985 we **were living** in Canada.
- Today she's wearing a skirt, but yesterday she **was wearing** trousers.
- I woke up early yesterday. It was a beautiful morning. The sun **was shining** and the birds **were singing**.

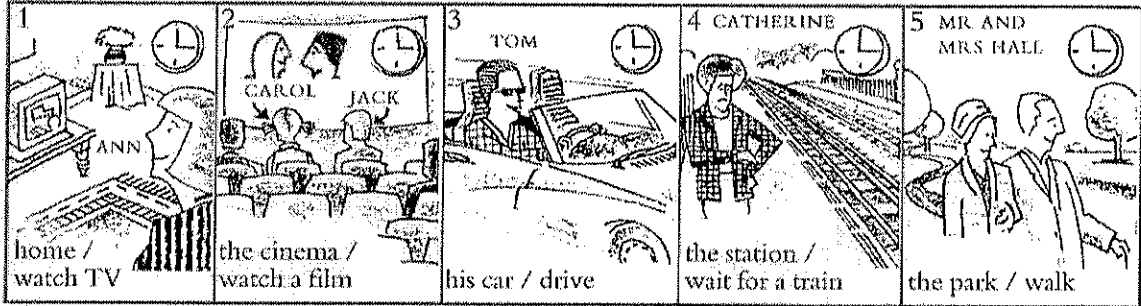
Spelling (live → living / run → running / lie → lying etc.) ⇒ Appendix 5

C 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 three o'clock?

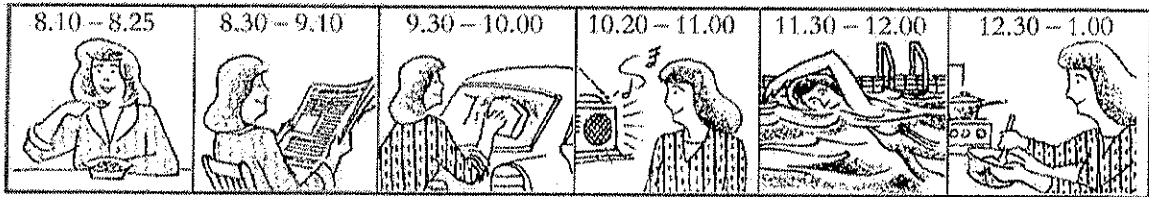
EXERCISES

13.1 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 was at home. She was watching TV.
- 2 Carol and Jack They
- 3 Tom
- 4
- 5
- 6 And you? I

13.2 Sarah did a lot of things yesterday morning. Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.



- 1 At 9.45 she was washing her car.
- 2 At 11.45 she
- 3 At 9 o'clock
- 4 At 12.50
- 5 At 8.15
- 6 At 10.30

13.3 Complete the questions. Use was/were -ing. Use what/where/why if necessary.

- 1 (you/live) Where were you living in 1990?
- 2 (you/do) at 2 o'clock?
- 3 (it/rain) when you got up?
- 4 (Ann/drive) so fast?
- 5 (Tim/wear) a suit yesterday?

In London.
I was asleep.
No, it was sunny.
Because she was in a hurry.
No, a T-shirt and jeans.

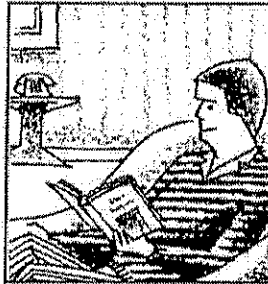
13.4 Look at the picture. You saw Joe in the street yesterday afternoon. What was he doing? Write positive or negative sentences.



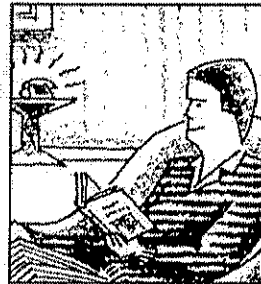
- 1 (wear / a jacket) He wasn't wearing a jacket.
- 2 (carry / a bag)
- 3 (go / to the dentist)
- 4 (eat / an ice-cream)
- 5 (carry / an umbrella)
- 6 (go / home)
- 7 (wear / a hat)
- 8 (ride / a bicycle)

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

A



Jack was reading a book.



The phone rang.



He stopped reading.



He answered the phone.

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

What was Jack **doing** when the phone rang? } (*past continuous*)
He **was reading** a book.

What **did he do** when the phone rang? } (*past simple*)
He **stopped** reading and **answered** the phone.

Jack began reading *before* the phone rang.

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



B

past simple

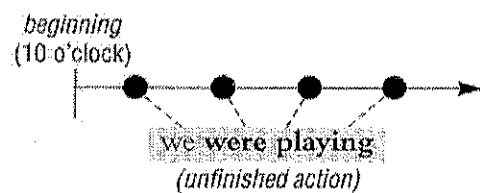
- A: What **did you do** yesterday morning?
B: We **played** tennis. (from 10 to 11.30)



- Jack **read** a book yesterday. (= from beginning to end)
- **Did you watch** the film on television last night?
- It **didn't rain** while we were on holiday.

past continuous

- A: What **were you doing** at 10.30?
B: We **were playing** tennis.



- Jack **was reading** a book when the phone rang.
- **Were you watching** television when I phoned you?
- It **wasn't raining** when I got up.

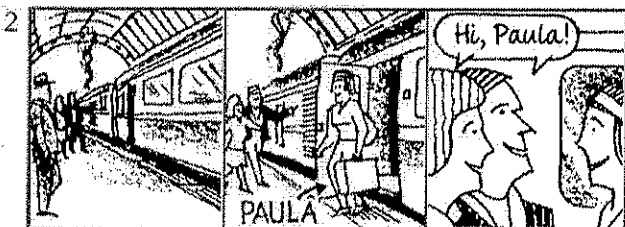
- I **started** work at 9 o'clock and **finished** at 4.30. At 2.30 I **was working**.
- It **was raining** when we **went** out. (= it started raining *before* we went out)
- I **saw** Lucy and Steve this morning. They **were waiting** at the bus stop.
- Jenny **fell** asleep while she **was reading**.

EXERCISES

14.1 Look at the pictures and put the verbs in the correct form, past continuous or past simple.



Carol broke (break) her arm last week. It (happen) when she (paint) her room. She (fall) off the ladder.



The train (arrive) at the station and Paula (get) off. Two friends of hers, John and Jenny, (wait) to meet her.



Yesterday Sue (walk) along the road when she (meet) Jim. He (go) to the station to catch a train and he (carry) a bag. They (stop) to talk for a few minutes.

14.2 Put the verb into the past continuous or past simple.

- 1 A: What were you doing (you/do) when the phone rang (ring)?
B: I was watching (watch) television.
- 2 A: Was Jane busy when you went to see her?
B: Yes, she (study).
- 3 A: What time (the post / arrive) this morning?
B: It (come) while I (have) breakfast.
- 4 A: Was Margaret at work today?
B: No, she (not/go) to work. She was ill.
- 5 A: How fast (you/drive) when the police (stop) you?
B: I don't know exactly but I (not/drive) very fast.
- 6 A: (your team / win) the football match yesterday?
B: No, the weather was very bad, so we (not/play).
- 7 A: How (you/break) the window?
B: We (play) football. I (kick) the ball and it (hit) the window.
- 8 A: (you/see) Jenny last night?
B: Yes, she (wear) a very nice jacket.
- 9 A: What (you/do) at 2 o'clock this morning?
B: I was asleep.
- 10 A: I (lose) my key last night.
B: How (you/get) into your room?
A: I (climb) in through a window.