

The background features a light green gradient with a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent green squares of various sizes. A solid blue horizontal banner is positioned in the center of the image.

Past Continuous

Past Continuous



I was travelling back from Monterrey when I **met** a wonderful lady.

- ❖ **Was travelling** = longer action (past continuous)
- ❖ **Met** = shorter action (past simple)



1) We use it to talk about an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past. We do not know exactly when the action started and finished.

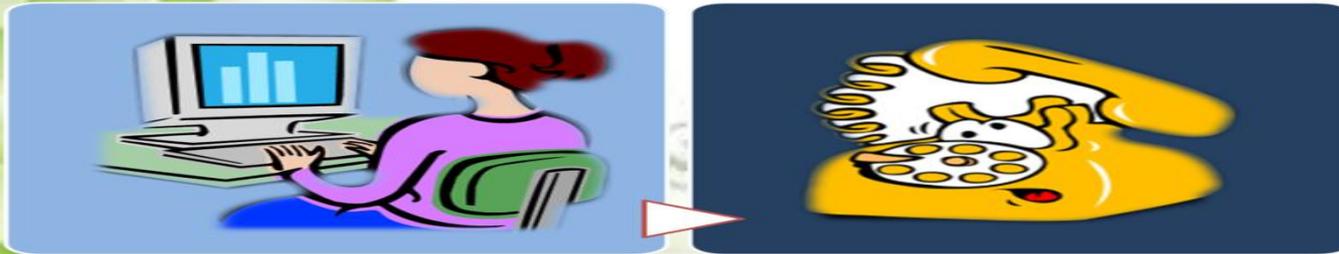
Examples:

Yesterday at night I **was watching** my favorite TV program.

My father and my brother **were painting** the house.

Susana **was cooking** a delicious omelet last night.

2) To talk about an action which was in progress and was interrupted by another one..



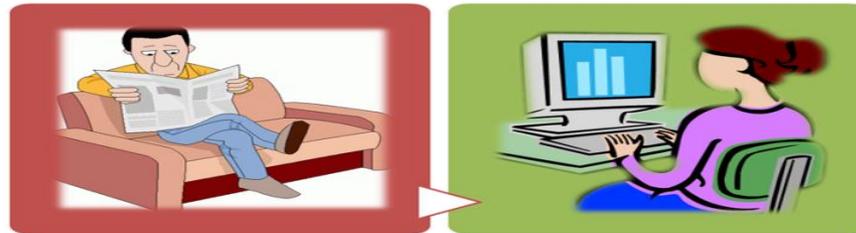
Examples:

I was doing my homework in the computer *when* the telephone rang.

My kids were playing football in the park *when it* started to rain.

Catherine was reading an interesting book *when* somebody knocked at the door.

3) To talk about more than two actions that were happening at the same time in the past.



Examples:

Daniel was doing his homework in the studio *while* his parents were taking a nap in the bedroom.

Children were playing hide and seek *while* their parents were having dinner.

***While* Rodrigo was reading the newspaper, I was answering some e-mails.**



**We form the past continuous with the past of the verb “to be”
WAS/WERE and the main verb in gerund form (-ING)**

Affirmative

- ❖ Monica was writing some e-mails to her friends.
- ❖ Daniel and Antonio were playing basketball.

Negative

- ❖ Monica was not (wasn't) writing some e-mails to her friends.
- ❖ Daniel and Antonio were not (weren't) playing basketball.

Interrogative

- ❖ Was Monica writing e-mails to her friends? Yes, she was / No, she wasn't.
- ❖ Were Daniel and Antonio playing basketball? Yes, they were / No, they weren't.

Interrogative with WH- questions

- ❖ What was Monica writing? She was writing e-mails.
- ❖ Where were Daniel and Antonio playing? They were playing in the park.

Spelling rules

When we form past continuous, we use the verb in **ING** form. In the next chart, you can check some spelling rules adding **ING**.

RULES	EXAMPLES
✎ Most verbs: add ING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Work = working▪ Wait = waiting▪ Go = going▪ Answer = answering

RULES	EXAMPLES
✿ Verbs ending in -E; take off -E and add -ING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Live = living▪ Write = writing▪ Wake up = waking up▪ Move = moving
✿ Verbs ending in consonant + vowel + consonant: double the last consonant and add -ING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Get = getting▪ Stop =stopping▪ Travel = travelling▪ Put = putting

Time Expressions

When, while, as, all day / night / morning/ evening, etc.

Simple past: *When* (shorter action)

Past continuous: *when/ while / as* (longer action)

Other sequence words (time expressions) which are used to order the events in an anecdote/story chronologically are:

First – Primero

Second – Segundo

To begin with – Para comenzar

Next – En seguida

Then – Después

The next step – El siguiente paso

At the same time – Al mismo tiempo

Later on – Posteriormente

Finally - Finalmente

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