

Present	Past	Past Participle
be	was / were	been
do	did	done
go	went	gone
have	had	had
make	made	made

Simple Past and Past Continuous

When to use the Past Continuous

To talk about things that were **in progress in the past**.

Past Continuous Positive

To form the past continuous positive, use
subject + was/were + verb + -ing

I / He / She / It	was	studying
You / We / They	were	studying

Examples:

- "What were you doing when I called you?"
"I **was studying**."
- She **was playing** guitar at the party.
- At 5:30 last night, we **were driving** home.
- They saw a starfish while they **were walking** on the beach.

Past Continuous Negative

The past continuous negative is:

subject + was not / were not + verb + -ing

I / He / She / It	was not (wasn't)	studying
You / We / They	were not (weren't)	studying

Examples:

- I **wasn't listening** when the teacher gave the instructions.
- She **wasn't wearing** jeans. She was wearing a dress.
- We **weren't driving** very fast because the road was wet.
- They **weren't sleeping** at 10 PM last night; they were watching a movie.

Past Continuous Questions

To form past continuous questions, use:

Was/Were + subject + verb + -ing

Was	I / he / she / it	sleeping?
Were	you / we / they	sleeping?

Examples:

- **Were you sleeping** when I called you?
- What **was she thinking** about last night? She looked worried.
- **Was it raining** when you left the bar?
- What music **were they listening to?**

Note: You can put a **question word** at the beginning:

- **Who** were you talking to on the phone last night?
I was talking to my cousin.
- **What** was John doing at the library?
He was looking for a book.
- **Why** were they drinking champagne yesterday?
Because it was their anniversary.

Be careful! Some verbs are never used in the continuous form:

like, want, need, believe.

- ~~I was needing to find a job.~~
- I needed to find a job.
- ~~She was believing that he loved her.~~
- She believed that he loved her.

Simple Past and Past Continuous

The **past continuous** is often used together with the **simple past** to show that one thing happened while another thing was in progress:

- I **was talking** on the phone when my sister **arrived**.
- He **was drinking** beer when he suddenly **felt** sick.
- She **took** a photo as we **were getting** out of the bus.
- We **were waiting** for the bus when we **saw** a car accident.

We were waiting for the bus
when we saw a car accident.



past continuous: were waiting

simple past: saw