

Past continuous (I was doing)

A

Study this example situation:



Yesterday Karen and Jim played tennis. They started at 10 o'clock and finished at 11.30.

So, at 10.30 they **were playing** tennis.

They **were playing** = they were in the middle of playing.

They had not finished playing.

Was/were -ing is the *past continuous*:

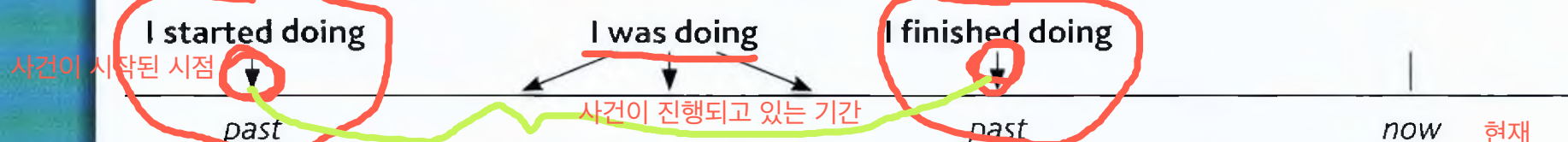
대화에서 대상이 되는 시점
(10:30) 에는 테니스 치는 행동
이 계속 진행되고 있습니다.

I/he/she/it	was
we/you/they	were

playing
doing
working etc.

B

I was doing something = I was in the middle of doing something at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this time, but had not finished: 사건이 끝난 시점



- ☐ This time last year I **was living** in Brazil.
- ☐ What **were you doing** at 10 o'clock last night?
- ☐ I waved to Helen, but she **wasn't looking**. 나는 헬렌에게 흔들었지만, 그녀는 보고 있지 않았다.

C

Compare the *past continuous* (**I was doing**) and *past simple* (**I did**): 비교해 보세요

Past continuous (in the middle of an action)

- ☐ I **was walking** home when I met Dan.
(in the middle of walking home)
- ☐ Kate **was watching** TV when we arrived.

Past simple (complete action)

- ☐ I **walked** home after the party last night.
(= all the way, completely)
- ☐ Kate **watched** television a lot when she was ill last year.

D

We often **use** the *past simple* and the *past continuous* **together** to say that something happened in the middle of something else:

- ☐ Matt **phoned** while we **were having** dinner.
- ☐ It **was raining** when I **got** up.
- ☐ I **saw** you in the park yesterday. You **were sitting** on the grass and **reading** a book.
- ☐ I **hurt** my back while I **was working** in the garden.

어떠한 일이 진행되고 있던 중간에 다른 일들이 일어날때
단순 과거형과 과거 진행형을 한 문장 내에서 사용하기도 합니다.

But we use the *past simple* to say that one thing happened after another:

- ☐ I **was walking** along the road when I saw Dan. / So I **stopped**, and we **had** a chat.

Compare:

- ☐ When Karen arrived, we **were having** dinner. (= we had already started before she arrived)

- ☐ When Karen arrived, we **had** dinner. (= Karen arrived, and then we had dinner)

E

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **want**) are not normally used in the continuous (see Unit 4A):

- ☐ We were good friends. **We knew** each other well. (not We were knowing)
- ☐ I was enjoying the party, **but Chris wanted** to go home. (not was wanting)